

Teaching Video *NeuroImages*: Tongue fasciculations in spinal muscular atrophy



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Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is a heterogeneous, autosomal-recessive neuromuscular disorder affecting the lower motor neurons. It is characterized by loss of the anterior horn cells in the spinal cord and cranial nerves nuclei.¹ Patients present weakness and muscle wasting. Fasciculations are usually present, especially in the tongue (see video on the *Neurology*[®] Web site at Neurology.org). Although not pathognomonic, tongue fasciculations in a young child are highly suggestive of SMA.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Maria Augusta Montenegro: drafting/revising the manuscript, accepts responsibility for conduct of research and final approval, acquisition of data.

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DISCLOSURE

The author reports no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures.

REFERENCE

1. Monari UR, De Vivo DC. Neurodegeneration in spinal muscular atrophy: from disease phenotype and animal models to therapeutic strategies and beyond. *Future Neurol* 2014;9:49–65.

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