Teaching Video *NeuroImages*: Finger clonus

When the pupil surpassed his master

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Figure Spinal cord MRI

Spinal cord MRI showed signal hyperintensity throughout the C4-C5 segment due to spondylosis.

A 75-year-old man was admitted because of finger tremor. During neurologic examination, bilateral finger clonus was evoked (video on the *Neurology*[®] Web site at Neurology.org), and a cervical spinal cord hyperintensity was found (figure).

Finger clonus identification depends on an appropriate neurologic examination consisting of a “sudden lift up of the hand by the tips of the fingers,” as

originally described by Jean-Martin Charcot who suggested in 1883 that this sign “belongs to the semeiotics of spinal affections.”^{1,2} More than 10 years later, his pupil, Joseph Jules François Félix Babinski, successfully described the plantar reflex, and since then, no studies investigated finger clonus, an old-fashioned but possibly highly localizing pyramidal sign.

Supplemental data
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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Marcello Moccia: study concept, drafting and revising the manuscript, acquisition and interpretation of data. Emanuele Spina: drafting the manuscript, acquisition and interpretation of data. Roberto Allocca: drafting the manuscript, acquisition and interpretation of data. Paolo Barone: study concept, revising the manuscript, interpretation of data. Carmine Vitale: study design, revising the manuscript, interpretation of data, study supervision.

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