

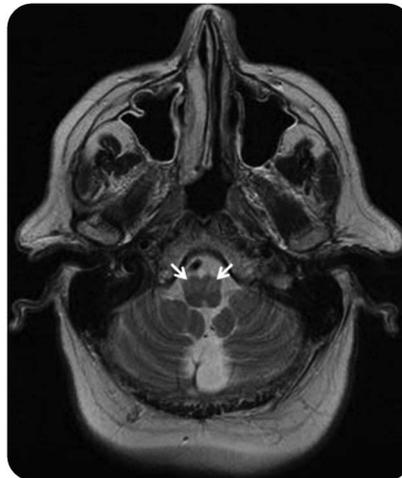
# Teaching Video *NeuroImages*: Palatal tremor in adult-onset Alexander disease



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**Figure** MRI reveals hypertrophic olivary degeneration



Cranial MRI reveals hypertrophic olivary degeneration on T2-weighted images.

A 67-year-old man presented with a several-year history of progressive gait ataxia, dysarthria, and a 2-Hz palatal tremor (video on the *Neurology*<sup>®</sup> Web site at Neurology.org). He did not have corticospinal tract signs. Cranial MRI revealed hypertrophic olivary degeneration on T2-weighted images (figure). Genetic testing revealed a transition C > T, nucleotide position 235, codon 79, resulting in an arginine > cysteine change, which is a known pathogenic DNA sequence variant within the glial fibrillary acidic protein gene, confirming adult-onset Alexander disease. Symptomatic palatal tremor (SPT) results from a lesion within the dentato-rubral-olivary tracts. SPT is produced by contraction of the levator veli palatini and is usually accompanied by other neurologic signs. Essential palatal tremor, an idiopathic tremor of the tensor veli

palatini, has a similar appearance to SPT, but is accompanied by a clicking sound within the ear and without additional neurologic deficits.

#### AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Dr. Sebesto was responsible for analysis and interpretation of data, drafting/revising the manuscript for content, study concept/design, and final approval of the manuscript. Dr. van Gerpen was responsible for analysis and interpretation of data, drafting/revising the manuscript for content, study concept/design, and final approval of the manuscript.

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