Recurrent belly dancer dyskinesia in pregnancy

A 37-year-old woman in her 34th week of pregnancy developed continual abdominal movements, which had complicated both her previous pregnancies (video at [Neurology.org](#)). Examination, routine bloodwork, and brain MRI were normal. Circumstances precluded prepartum thoracolumbar MRI; postpartum MRI was unrevealing. Clonazepam and levetiracetam suppressed the movements, which remitted postpartum. All babies were healthy.

Recurrent abdominal dyskinesia in pregnancy, reported once before,¹ perhaps results from local compressive or hemodynamic changes in the thoracic cord or roots from the gravid uterus. Similar mechanisms also could account for abdominal myoclonus in pregnancy.² Hormonal effects (akin to chorea gravidarum) seem less plausible given the focality of the dyskinesia.

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Supplemental data
at [Neurology.org](#)

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