Teaching Video *NeuroImages*: The pathologic deep abdominal reflex

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A 68-year-old man presented with progressive asymmetric limb weakness and muscle wasting over 12 months. There were profuse fasciculations and hyperreflexia in the limbs and abdominal muscles (see video at Neurology.org), consistent with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

The deep abdominal reflex is a stretch response analogous to the tendon jerk or muscle stretch reflexes in the limbs.¹ In normal individuals, this reflex can be weak or absent. Brisk deep abdominal reflexes, particularly with diminished or absent superficial abdominal reflexes (reflex dissociation), is suggestive of an upper motor neuron lesion above the T6 spinal segment.²

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Rachael Kee: analysis and interpretation of data, drafting and revision of manuscript for intellectual content. Cullen M. O’Gorman: analysis and

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DISCLOSURE

The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures.

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Supplemental data
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