Teaching Video NeuroImages: Missing toe
The relevance of the Brissaud reflex

A 70-year-old man who was admitted to neurointensive care with spastic tetraparesis and altered level of consciousness due to acute subdural hematoma and who had a history of left forefoot amputation presented right Babinski sign and left Brissaud reflex (video at Neurology.org). The Brissaud reflex is characterized by a contraction of the tensor fasciae latae due to stimulus over the plantar aspect of the foot, which is better visualized on the lateral aspect of the thigh.1,2 This is a useful neurologic sign in patients with suspected upper motor neuron disease and absent hallux. It was named after Édouard Brissaud, a pupil of Charcot, who described the reflex in 1896 a few days after Babinski’s famous lecture.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

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

REFERENCES

From the Hospital Federal dos Servidores do Estado (F.R.N., L.F.R.V.), Rio de Janeiro; and Institute of Neurology/Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (P.J.O.M.M., L.F.R.V.), Brazil.
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Felipe Resende Nóbrega, Philippe Joaquim Oliveira Menezes Macêdo and Luiz Felipe Rocha Vasconcellos

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