Teaching Video NeuroImages: Sustained clonus of the upper extremity

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An 80-year-old man with a history of renal transplant, on tacrolimus and prednisone, presented with confusion and fever (38.3°C). Brain MRI demonstrated leptomeningeal enhancement, and lumbar puncture revealed a mixed pleocytosis with 533 white blood cells/ μ L (45% lymphocytes) and 950 red blood cells/ μ L. Varicella zoster was identified in the CSF by PCR. He exhibited diffuse hyperreflexia and clonus at the bilateral finger and wrist flexors within 72 hours of admission (video, links.lww.com/WNL/A323). Spasticity and clonus are pathologic upper motor neuron signs that can be observed early in the course of meningoencephalitis¹ and other acute neurologic disorders.²

Author contributions

James E. Siegler: preparation of manuscript, study supervision. Xin Zhou: acquisition of data, critical revision of manuscript for important intellectual content.

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Disclosure

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

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