Firing squad

Jessica Frey, BA, MD

Neurology® 2018;91:526. doi:10.1212/WNL.00000000000006164

Correspondence

Dr. Frey
Jef0017@hsc.wvu.edu

MORE ONLINE

Audio

Listen to Dr. Frey read this poem.

[NPub.org/kswrdy](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6000000/)

We are in the lineup, backs against the wall.
Funny uniform, these long white coats.

The father in the hospital room draws his gun:
A loaded question.

If she was your daughter, what would you do?

We stare speechless at the girl in the corner,
trapped in the bed by rainbow colored wires and tubes.
Words start to tumble out of us:

Myoclonic status

Burst suppression

Diffuse anoxic brain injury

Bang, a warning shot:
That doesn't answer my question.

He cocks his weapon of choice:
His index finger pointed at each of us in turn,
and his eyes, pleading for the truth.

We look at the EEG
Give it another day
And pretend to know
Leave the tube in
What all those squiggly lines mean

And when it's my turn,
I put my hands up in the air
I don't know
I clench my eyes shut, waiting for the bullet
that is sure to come spiraling my way.

Bang.
Bang.
Bang.
We all fall down.
And we all return to ashes.

Neurology[®]

Firing squad

Jessica Frey

Neurology 2018;91;526

DOI 10.1212/WNL.00000000000006164

This information is current as of September 10, 2018

Updated Information & Services

including high resolution figures, can be found at:
<http://n.neurology.org/content/91/11/526.full>

Subspecialty Collections

This article, along with others on similar topics, appears in the following collection(s):

Brain trauma

http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/brain_trauma

Critical care

http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/critical_care

EEG

http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/eeg_

Prognosis

<http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/prognosis>

Status epilepticus

http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/status_epilepticus

Permissions & Licensing

Information about reproducing this article in parts (figures, tables) or in its entirety can be found online at:

http://www.neurology.org/about/about_the_journal#permissions

Reprints

Information about ordering reprints can be found online:

<http://n.neurology.org/subscribers/advertise>

Neurology® is the official journal of the American Academy of Neurology. Published continuously since 1951, it is now a weekly with 48 issues per year. Copyright © 2018 American Academy of Neurology. All rights reserved. Print ISSN: 0028-3878. Online ISSN: 1526-632X.