Teaching Video NeurolImages: The signs of dystonic tremor

Tremulous “escanciador”

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Figure Position of the arm required to elicit the hand tremor

Patient holds a bottle at the position that elicited her tremor (A; water bottle used as “hair curler”), reminiscent of the posture adopted by an escanciador, a Spanish cider cup-bearer (B).

A 58-year-old woman noticed right-hand jerky tremor exclusively while curling her hair. Her tremor-generating posture was reminiscent of the Asturian pourer of cider, or “escanciador,” who holds the bottle above the head when vertically pouring to aerate the liquid (figure). On examination, we asked her to hold a water bottle as if it were a hair curler. This elicited an action-induced, position-dependent, task-specific, weight-sensitive tremor, which attenuated when touching her affected hand with the unaffected one (closed-loop sensory feedback or sensory trick) (video 1). The rest of the examination was normal. These 5 clinical features distinguish dystonic tremor from all other tremor syndromes.^{1,2}

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Author contributions

Drs. Sharma and Macias-Garcia drafted the manuscript and videotape. Dr. Zaidi contributed to data acquisition and review of the manuscript. Dr. Espay examined the patient and provided critical review of the manuscript.

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