Teaching Video NeuroImages: Tardive diaphragmatic tremor

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A 75-year-old woman was prescribed pimozide 2 mg twice a day 4 years previously for paranoid behavior. The patient developed involuntary movements in her abdomen following abrupt discontinuation of pimozide.

The movement was brief, involuntary, nonsuppressible, and jerk-like, associated with an audible sniff (video 1). These movements did not affect the patient's respiration and disappeared while she was eating or sleeping. The diagnosis of tardive diaphragmatic tremor was made, and the patient was started back on pimozide 2 mg twice a day. A very low dose of clonazepam was added and pimozide was gradually discontinued. At the time of the follow-up visit, the movements had disappeared (video 2).

Diaphragmatic movements as a part of withdrawal dyskinesia have been described.¹ In cases where this movement is seen in isolation without respiratory compromise, the term diaphragmatic tremor is preferred.²

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Disclosure

H.V. Gupta reports no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to Neurology.org/N for full disclosures.

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