A 38-year-old woman with localized left occipital posterior quadrantic dysplasia complained of seizures described as “flashing lights” and confusion with rare convulsions. These were often induced by changes in lighting. EEG revealed left occipital spike discharges precipitated by eye closure (figure). Fixation-off sensitivity (FOS) is an uncommon phenomenon characterized by epileptiform discharges induced by elimination of central vision or fixation. FOS is most often associated with lesional epilepsy in adults, including focal cortical dysplasia, occipital calcifications in celiac disease, and parietal-occipital stroke. The proposed mechanism includes cortical hyperexcitability involving magnocellular and parvocellular pathways, alpha-rhythm generators, or defective glutaminergic and GABAergic pathways.

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

Appendix Authors

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eric P. Nagele, DO</td>
<td>University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore</td>
<td>Design and conceptualization, drafting and revision of manuscript for intellectual content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camilo A. Gutierrez, MD</td>
<td>University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore</td>
<td>Drafting and revision of manuscript for intellectual content</td>
</tr>
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References

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elsie Achieng, MD</td>
<td>Riverside Neurology Specialists, Newport News, VA</td>
<td>Drafting and revision of manuscript for intellectual content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer L. Hopp, MD</td>
<td>University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore</td>
<td>Design and conceptualization, drafting and revision of manuscript for intellectual content</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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