Teaching Video NeuroImages: Bereitschaftspotential
A Neurophysiologic Test for Functional or Voluntary Jerks

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Figure Surface EMG and EEG Show Cortical Activation Preceding the Abnormal Movements

A 47-year-old man presented with a 2-year history of recurrent, short-lasting, and sudden jerky movements, which resembled myoclonus (video 1). Examination was normal. Brain and spine MRI were normal. Surface EMG and EEG revealed cortical activation preceding the abnormal movements (figure), consistent with Bereitschaftspotential and the diagnosis of functional jerks.

Bereitschaftspotential, or readiness or premotor potential, is a slow negative cortical potential beginning 1.5–2 seconds before voluntary movements, with maximal amplitude over centroparietal areas. This represents a cortical contribution to the premotor planning of voluntary movement. Along with clinical observation, Bereitschaftspotential is useful to differentiate myoclonus, tics, and functional movement disorders.

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### References


### Appendix Authors

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### Appendix (continued)

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