Teaching Video NeuroImage: “Weighing” in on an Unusual Tremor

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Figures
Electrophysiologic Studies

A 73-year-old right-handed man with hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, renal insufficiency, and cyclothymic disorder presented with 1 year of insidious onset tremor in his right hand when carrying his briefcase. Psychotropic drugs included bupropion and lamotrigine. He was neurologically intact except for a very low amplitude bilateral kinetic tremor (L > R) and a much larger amplitude right hand task-specific tremor (video 1) characterized by EMG (figure).

The phenomenology is classic for a weight-holding or "shopping bag tremor" first described in 1995.1 It is difficult to categorize based on the consensus statement for tremor classification.2 It could be considered a variant of isometric tremor, essential tremor, or task-specific tremor with different underlying etiologies. It is typically an asymmetric, progressive kinetic tremor that appears exclusively (or is more evident) when holding a weight, in contrast to classical essential tremor, which reduces in amplitude with weight-bearing.

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Appendix Authors

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References
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