Teaching Video NeuroImage: Spasmus Nutans, an Infantile Nystagmus

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A 5-month-old boy came to the emergency department because of a monocular nystagmus with head-nodding and torticollis (Video 1). Fundoscopic examination excluded macular/optic nerve hypoplasia and retinal abnormalities. Brain MRI was unremarkable (Figure). A diagnosis of spasmus nutans (SN) was made.

SN is a monocular/bilateral horizontal nystagmus with head-nodding and torticollis; it usually disappears within 2 years but can persist until 12 years with an increased risk of developmental delay.

Ophthalmologic evaluation and MRI are mandatory to confirm the diagnosis and to distinguish SN from SN-like diseases with underlying retinal, optic chiasm, or brain lesions.

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