

Mogul-clonus

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A 40-year-old man reported that, while mogul skiing, his ankles “vibrate” each time he “hit the bumps.” Examination demonstrated bilateral ankle clonus, as well as a left Babinski sign. The patient likened this feeling of clonus to his skiing experience. The clonus occurred when the skis hit the “bump.” Presumably, the jump onto the mogul dorsiflexed his feet abruptly eliciting spontaneous clonus by the same mechanism used by neurologists. MRI diagnosed severe spondylotic cervical myelopathy (figure). In this case, the vivid description of a peculiar complaint (“mogul-clonus”) led to surgery. Six months post-operatively “skiing the bumps” no longer produced clonus.



Figure. Cervical spondylotic myelopathy: T2-weighted MRI image of the cervical spine demonstrates disc extrusion primarily at C5-6 level along with abnormal intramedullary enhancement.

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