

# Teaching Video NeuroImages: Hypothalamic hamartoma

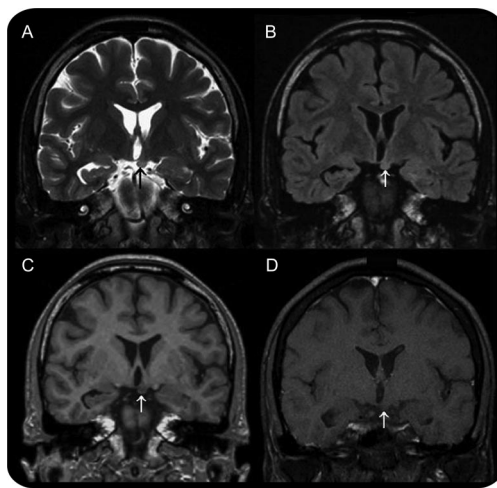
## An overlooked entity



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**Figure 1** Brain MRI (1.5 T)



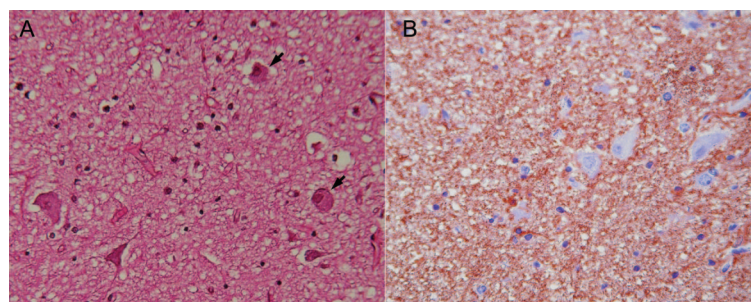
Coronal MRI showing small well-defined sessile lesion measuring  $0.78 \times 0.48$  cm in the anterior aspect of interpeduncular fossa of left tuber cinereum, (A) isointense to gray matter on T2-weighted image (black arrow); (B) hyperintense on fluid-attenuated inversion recovery image (white arrow); (C) isointense to gray matter on T1-weighted image (white arrow); (D) nonenhancing on postgadolinium contrast imaging.

A 21-year-old man presented with brief spells of inappropriate laughter since 6 years of age. Three gelastic seizures were recorded during video-EEG monitoring (video on the *Neurology*<sup>®</sup> Web site at [www.neurology.org](http://www.neurology.org)). MRI revealed a small hypothalamic hamartoma (figure 1). Gelastic seizures can also arise from temporal lobe and mesial frontal regions.<sup>1</sup> Meticulous scrutiny of MRI is needed since epileptogenic hamartomas may be small and nonpedunculated, and therefore easily missed. Surgical removal of hamartoma is very effective in controlling seizures.<sup>2</sup> Histopathology shows variable-sized nodular foci of neurons as well as areas of diffusely distributed neurons interspersed among glial cells without dysplastic neurons (figure 2).

### REFERENCES

1. Arroyo S, Lesser RP, Gordon B, et al. Mirth, laughter and gelastic seizures. *Brain* 1993;116:757–780.
2. Berkovic SF, Arzimanoglou A, Kuzniecky R, Harvey AS, Palmini A, Andermann F. Hypothalamic hamartoma and seizures: a treatable epileptic encephalopathy. *Epilepsia* 2003;44:969–973.

**Figure 2** Photomicrograph (400×)



(A) Hematoxylin & eosin stain showing discrete neurons (black arrows) and diffusely scattered stellate cells supported on a fibrillary matrix. (B) Immunohistochemistry with glial fibrillary acidic protein stain showing glial fibers (brown) interspersed with discrete neurons of variable size and shape.

Supplemental data at  
[www.neurology.org](http://www.neurology.org)

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## Teaching Video *NeuroImages*: Hypothalamic hamartoma: An overlooked entity

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