

# Recurrent belly dancer dyskinesia in pregnancy



A 37-year-old woman in her 34th week of pregnancy developed continual abdominal movements, which had complicated both her previous pregnancies (video at [Neurology.org](#)). Examination, routine bloodwork, and brain MRI were normal. Circumstances precluded prepartum thoracolumbar MRI; postpartum MRI was unrevealing. Clonazepam and levetiracetam suppressed the movements, which remitted postpartum. All babies were healthy.

Recurrent abdominal dyskinesia in pregnancy, reported once before,<sup>1</sup> perhaps results from local compressive or hemodynamic changes in the thoracic cord or roots from the gravid uterus. Similar mechanisms also could account for abdominal myoclonus in pregnancy.<sup>2</sup> Hormonal effects (akin to chorea gravidarum) seem less plausible given the focality of the dyskinesia.

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*Author contributions:* Dr. Meyer: drafting/revising the manuscript, reviewed literature, and accepts responsibility for conduct of research and final approval. Dr. Desai: drafting/revising the manuscript, accepts responsibility for conduct of research and final approval, and acquisition of data. Dr. Geyer: drafting/revising the manuscript, aiding in study concept and design, interpretation of case, and accepts responsibility for conduct of research and final approval.

*Study funding:* No targeted funding reported.

*Disclosure:* The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to [Neurology.org](#) for full disclosures.

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Supplemental data  
at [Neurology.org](#)

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*Neurology* 2017;88;2066  
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0000000000003954

**This information is current as of May 22, 2017**

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