

Teaching Video NeuroImages: Heimann-Bielschowsky phenomenon

A harmless monocular nystagmus

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Heimann-Bielschowsky phenomenon (HBP) is a rare form of dissociated nystagmus.¹ A 38-year-old man complained of poor vision in his right eye for 6 years. Right visual acuity was 20/200 due to traumatic aphakia (cataract extraction without intraocular lens) and 20/20 in the left eye. An asymptomatic coarse, low frequency, pendular, vertical nystagmus was manifest in the right eye only (video, <http://links.lww.com/WNL/A177>). HBP is an asymptomatic monocular slow, pendular, mostly vertical nystagmus, which can develop years after unocular severe visual loss.¹ The pathogenesis of HBP is debated, but vertical fusion disruption due to monocular visual loss is hypothesized.² Recognizing HBP should prevent unnecessary investigations or treatments.

Author contributions

Audrey Nguyen: drafting the manuscript, analysis of data. François-Xavier Borruat: revising the manuscript, study concept.

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Disclosure

The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to Neurology.org/N for full disclosures.

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➔ Video

links.lww.com/WNL/A177

➔ Teaching slides:

links.lww.com/WNL/A178

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