

Teaching Video NeuroImage: Hung-Up Reflex in Stiff Limb Syndrome

Alejandro López-Jiménez, MD, Gerardo Gutiérrez-Gutiérrez, MD, Juan Diego Guerra-Hiraldó, MD, Monica M. Kurtis, MD, and Isabel Pareés, MD, PhD

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Correspondence

Dr. Parees
iparees@
ruberinternacional.es

A 45-year-old woman developed an intermittent gait disorder and agoraphobia that was initially diagnosed as a functional movement disorder (FMD). Examination revealed fluctuating left leg stiffness with a hung-up reflex (Video 1). Neuroimaging and laboratory testing were normal (including thyroid function). EMG showed continuous motor unit activity in the left leg muscles. Elevated serum (>2,000 U/mL) and CSF (21.09 U/mL) GAD65 antibodies were found consistent with stiff limb syndrome, a rare variant of stiff-person syndrome (SPS). Symptoms responded to diazepam. The hung-up reflex has been classically described in hypothyroidism and Huntington disease,¹ and this case suggests that it may also be a feature of SPS.² This clinical finding should be kept in mind when assessing patients with FMD.

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 Video

Teaching slides

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Appendix Authors

Name	Location	Contribution
Alejandro López-Jiménez, MD	Neurology Department, Hospital Ruber Internacional, Madrid, Spain	Drafting/revision of the manuscript for content, including medical writing for content; major role in the acquisition of data; study concept or design
Gerardo Gutiérrez-Gutiérrez, MD	Neurology Department, Hospital Infanta Sofía, Madrid, Spain	Drafting/revision of the manuscript for content, including medical writing for content; major role in the acquisition of data
Juan Diego Guerra-Hiraldó, MD	Neurology Department, Hospital Virgen de la Macarena, Sevilla, Spain	Drafting/revision of the manuscript for content, including medical writing for content
Monica M. Kurtis, MD	Neurology Department, Hospital Ruber Internacional, Madrid, Spain	Drafting/revision of the manuscript for content, including medical writing for content; analysis or interpretation of data
Isabel Pareés, MD, PhD	Neurology Department, Hospital Ruber Internacional; Neurology Department, Hospital Ramón y Cajal, Madrid, Spain	Drafting/revision of the manuscript for content, including medical writing for content; major role in the acquisition of data; study concept or design; analysis or interpretation of data

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From the Neurology Department (A.L.-J., M.M.K., I.P.), Hospital Ruber Internacional, Madrid; Neurology Department (G.G.-G.), Hospital Infanta Sofía, Madrid; Neurology Department (J.D.G.-H.), Hospital Virgen de la Macarena, Sevilla; and Neurology Department (I.P.), Hospital Ramón y Cajal, Madrid, Spain.

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