

VIDEO

Transient bilateral finger tremor after brain death

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A 54-year-old woman was admitted with a left frontal intracerebral hemorrhage (figure). After diagnosis of brain death and for about 1 hour thereafter, she exhibited symmetric, rapid alternating (about 4 Hz), bilateral flexion-extension movements of all fingers, most prominent in the thumbs (video). No accentuation with stimulation was seen. Simultaneously, an undulating toe reflex was observed in the left lower extremity. The occurrence of finger tremor in brain dead patients has not been described in the literature.¹ This report highlights that this type of movement should be viewed as compatible with the diagnosis of brain death.

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Figure. Cranial CT scan showing severe, generalized brain swelling and brainstem distortion caused by a right frontal intracerebral hematoma with extension to the subarachnoid spaces.

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