Teaching Video NeuroImages: Optic Ataxia as the Presenting Sign of the Heidenhain Variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease

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Neurology® 2021;97:e326-e328. doi:10.1212/WNL.0000000000012057

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A 59-year-old woman presented with subacute onset of hand clumsiness followed by memory loss. She reported difficulty reaching for objects, although she could see them. Examination (video) showed optic ataxia, visual acuity of 20/30 OU, intact visual field, and near-normal finger-to-nose test. Hyperintense signals in the left temporo-parieto-occipital cortex in diffusion-weighted MRI, periodic triphasic complexes in EEG (figure), and elevated t-tau in CSF suggested the Heidenhain variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.[1] The patient received supportive care and progressed to akinetic mutism. Optic ataxia—inaccuracy of visually guided arm movements—is a visuomotor disorder associated with lesions involving the posterior parietal cortex.[2]

MORE ONLINE

Video

Teaching slides
links.lww.com/WNL/B376

Acknowledgment
The authors thank Dr. Hong-Mei Liu for shooting the video.

Study Funding
No targeted funding reported.

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

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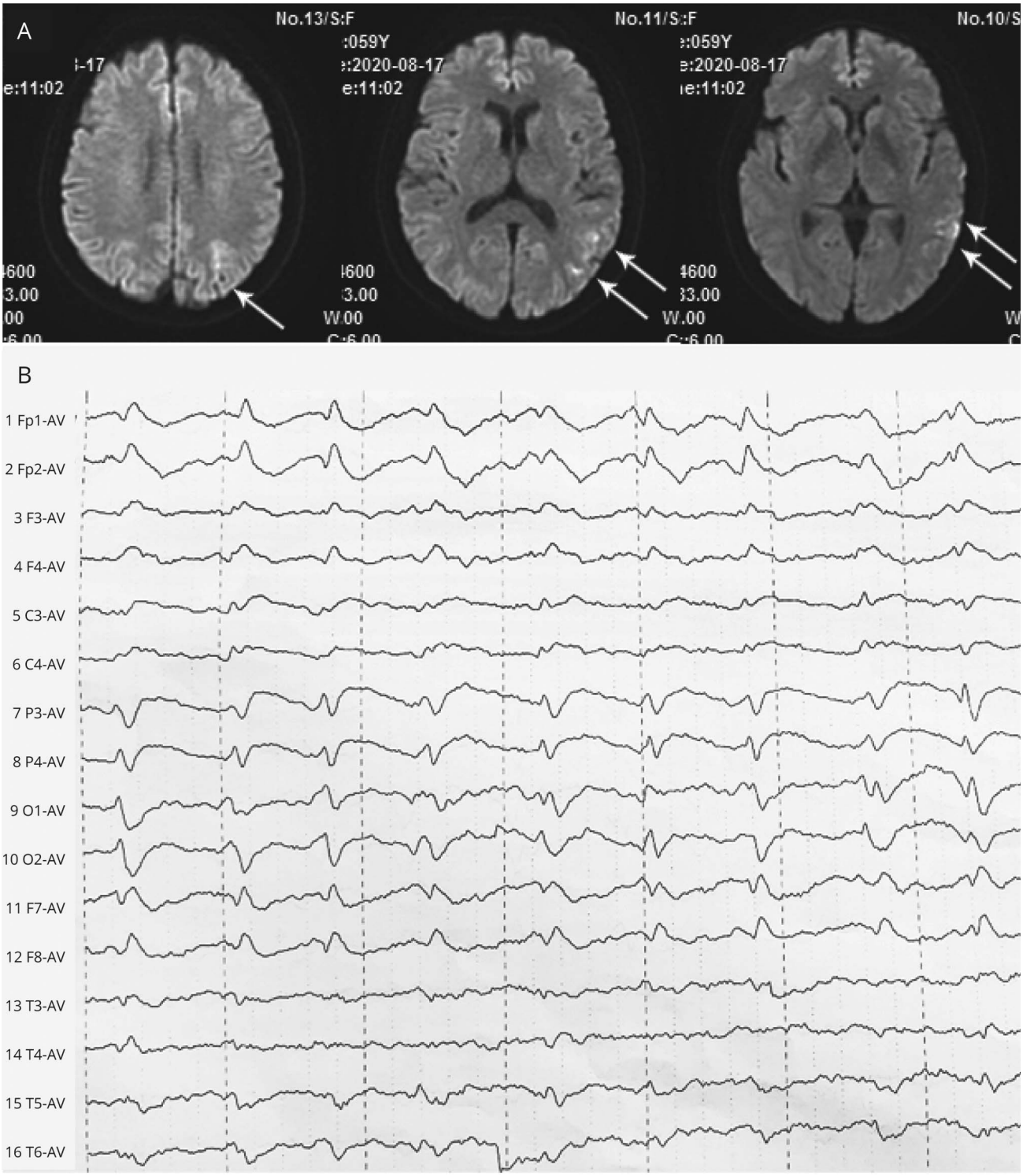
Figure Diffusion-Weighted MRI and EEG



(A) Diffusion-weighted MRI shows hyperintense signals (arrows) in the left temporo-parieto-occipital cortex. (B) EEG shows periodic triphasic complexes at 1/s.

Appendix Authors

Name	Location	Contribution
Shi-Lin Yang, MD	Department of Neurology, Huashan Hospital, Fudan University, Shanghai, China	Collection and interpretation of data, manuscript drafting
Xiang Han, MD	Department of Neurology, Huashan Hospital, Fudan University, Shanghai, China	Supervision, critical revision of manuscript
Qiang Dong, MD	Department of Neurology, Huashan Hospital, Fudan University, Shanghai, China	Supervision, critical revision of manuscript

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Neurology 2021;97;e326-e328 Published Online before print April 26, 2021
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0000000000012057