Epileptic Disord 2020; 22 (6): 834-5

Post-ictal whistling in Lennox-Gastaut syndrome

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Received April 07, 2020; Accepted August 27, 2020

A 19-year-old man with profound intellectual disability and Lennox-Gastaut syndrome (LGS) underwent continuous video-EEG. The study captured numerous atypical absence seizures, some of which were accompanied by post-ictal whistling (*video sequence*). Whistling did not occur interictally during video-EEG. The patient was non-verbal and was unable to whistle on command.

Ictal whistling (IW) is an extremely rare phenomenon, with fewer than 10 published cases to date. In all prior reports, IW occurred in patients with temporal lobe epilepsy. Consequently, IW is considered a semiological feature that localizes to the temporal lobe (Raghavendra *et al*., 2010; Lawley *et al*., 2016). This case illustrates that IW can also occur with generalized seizures in LGS. IW may be a complex automatism associated with recruitment of widespread functional networks (Raghavendra *et al*., 2010; Lawley *et al*., 2016). In LGS, IW could reflect temporal lobe dysfunction. □

Legend for video sequence

Atypical absence seizure and post-ictal whistling in Lennox-Gastaut syndrome.
Atypical absence seizure, clinically manifesting with behavior arrest. Ictal scalp EEG shows generalized spike-and-slow-wave and sharp-and-slow-wave complexes at 1.5 to 2.5 hertz. These are followed by brief diffuse electrodecrement that coincides with the emergence of whistling.

Key words for video research on www.epilepticdisorders.com
Phenomenology: behavior arrest, post-ictal whistling
Localisation: generalized
Syndrome: Lennox-Gastaut syndrome
Aetiology: post-traumatic

VIDEO ONLINE

Supplementary data.
Summary didactic slides are available on the www.epilepticdisorders.com website

Disclosures.
None of the authors have any conflict of interest to declare.

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doi:10.1684/epd.2020.1219

TEST YOURSELF

(1) What features of this video-EEG are consistent with an atypical absence seizure?

(2) Classically, onset of focal epilepsy associated with ictal whistling is located in which area of the brain?

Note: Reading the manuscript provides an answer to all questions. Correct answers may be accessed on the website, www.epilepticdisorders.com, under the section "The EpiCentre".