

E-Pearl of the Week

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Alien limb syndrome

Alien limb syndrome is characterized by an inability to recognize ownership of one's limb when visual clues are removed. Most commonly the hand is affected, but technically the syndrome may involve any limb, or combination of limbs. Typically alien limb syndrome also involves apraxia, problems with bimanual coordination and lack of goal-oriented activities. Causes of alien limb syndrome are diverse and include: corticobasal ganglionic degeneration, lesions of the corpus callosum, bifrontal lobe injury, and Alzheimer disease.

To learn more about alien limb syndrome, access an article by Patricio S. Espinosa, Charles D. Smith, and Joseph R. Berger, entitled "Alien hand syndrome" (*Neurology* 2006; 67: E21):

<http://www.neurology.org/cgi/content/full/67/12/E21>

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For more information, contact:

Sandi Moriarity
Senior Production Editor, *Neurology*®
349 W. Commercial Street, Suite 2250
E. Rochester, NY 14445
tel. (585) 248-2086
fax (651) 332-8606