

E-Pearl of the Week

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Glabellar reflex and parkinsonian disorders

The glabellar reflex is one of the primitive reflexes, and its presence often indicates frontal lobe dysfunction. This reflex was found to be common in patients with parkinsonian disorders including idiopathic Parkinson disease (PD), multiple system atrophy (MSA), and progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP). The presence of glabellar reflex has 83% sensitivity for parkinsonian disorders, but it is non-specific in differentiating among PD, MSA, and PSP. The exact reason for this phenomenon still remains unknown.

Reference

Brodsky H, Dat Vuong K, Thomas M, Jankovic J. Glabellar and palmomentary reflexes in Parkinsonian disorders. *Neurology* 2004;63:1096-1098.