

E-Pearl of the Week

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Mirror Movements

Mirror movements are involuntary synchronous movements associated with voluntary contraction of homologous muscles of the contralateral limb. They are attributed to an overactive motor cortex, decreased inhibition, or failure of corticospinal tract decussation. While mirror movements are commonly seen in normal children, they are abnormal in adulthood. Mirror movements are described in agenesis of the corpus callosum, Kallmann syndrome, phenylketonuria, and stroke. They are characteristically seen in the less affected side in early parkinsonism. In dystonia and corticobasal ganglionic degeneration, they are seen in the more affected hand.

Reference

Ottaviani D, Tiple D, Suppa A et al. Mirror movements in patients with Parkinson's disease. *Movement Disorders* 2008; 23:253-258.

Espay AJ, Li JY, Johnston L, Chen R, Lang AE. Mirror movements in parkinsonism: evaluation of a new clinical sign. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 2005; 76:1355-1359.

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