

A 48-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WITH PROGRESSIVE DYSPHAGIA AND DYSARTHRIA

Teaching NeuroImages

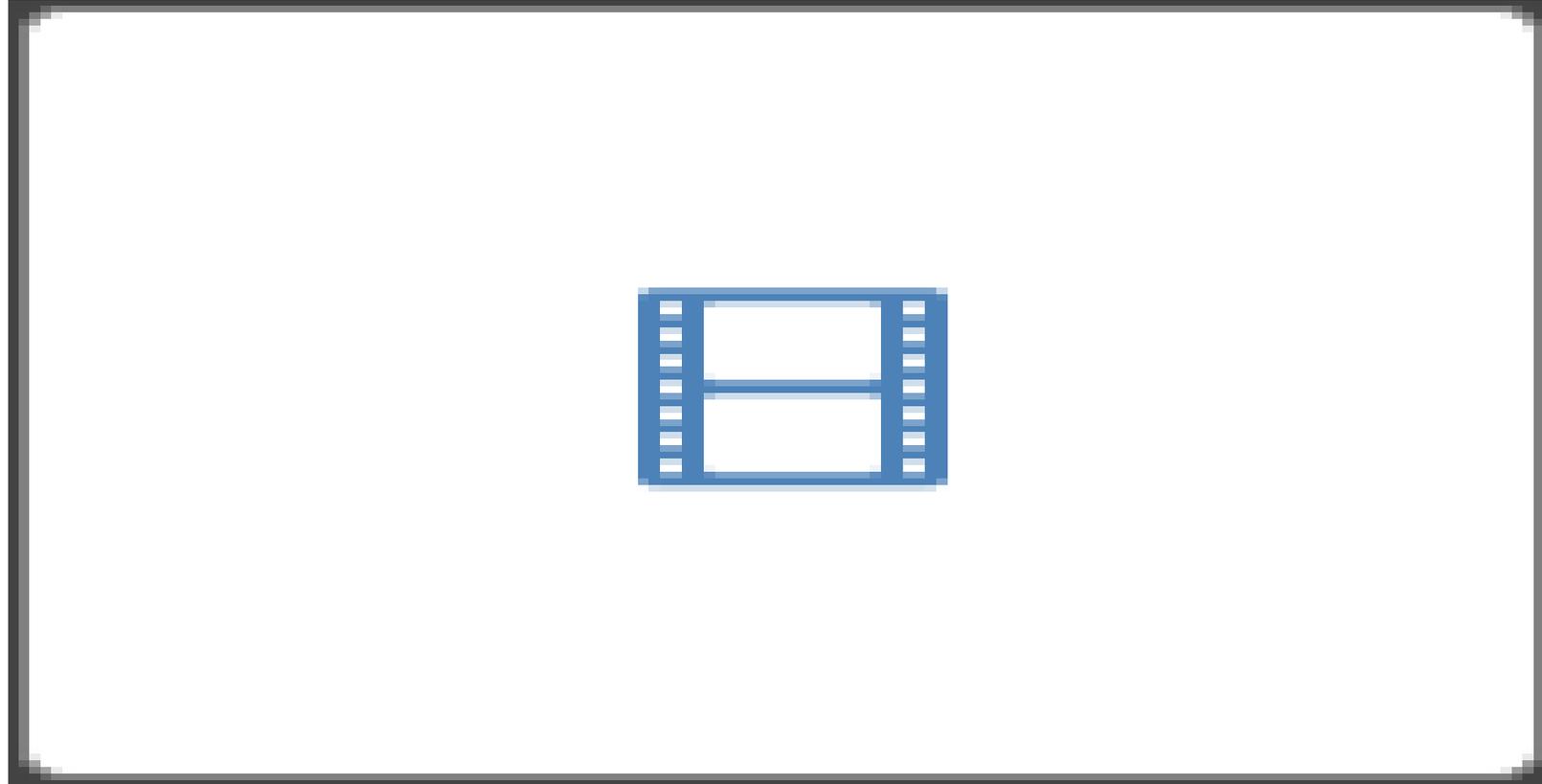
Neurology[®]

Resident & Fellow Section

Vignette

- A 48-year-old lady presented to our clinic with 2 years history of progressive dysphagia and dysarthria and recent onset stiffness in bilateral lower limbs.
- On examination she had spastic dysarthria with jaw clonus on supine position. With evidence of fasciculation's in tongue, upper and lower limbs. She also had hyperreflexia and spasticity in upper and lower limbs with a normal sensory examination.
- Her EMG (Electromyography) showed fasciculation potentials (Figure A,B) in the tongue, upper limbs, trunk and lower limb. She was diagnosed as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)

Video



Electromyography (EMG) findings



Jaw Clonus in Amyotrophic Lateral sclerosis

- The exaggerated jaw jerk as well as the rare Jaw Clonus clearly points to a pathology above the cervical cord and is helpful in clinical localization if carefully looked for.
- The rarity of this sign makes it an almost exclusive sign for motor neuron disease with bulbar involvement.
- Its better elicited with the patient lying supine and lower jaw relaxed.