

A 41-Year-Old Woman With Lower Limb Weakness and Areflexia

Teaching Video NeuroImages

Neurology[®]

Resident & Fellow Section

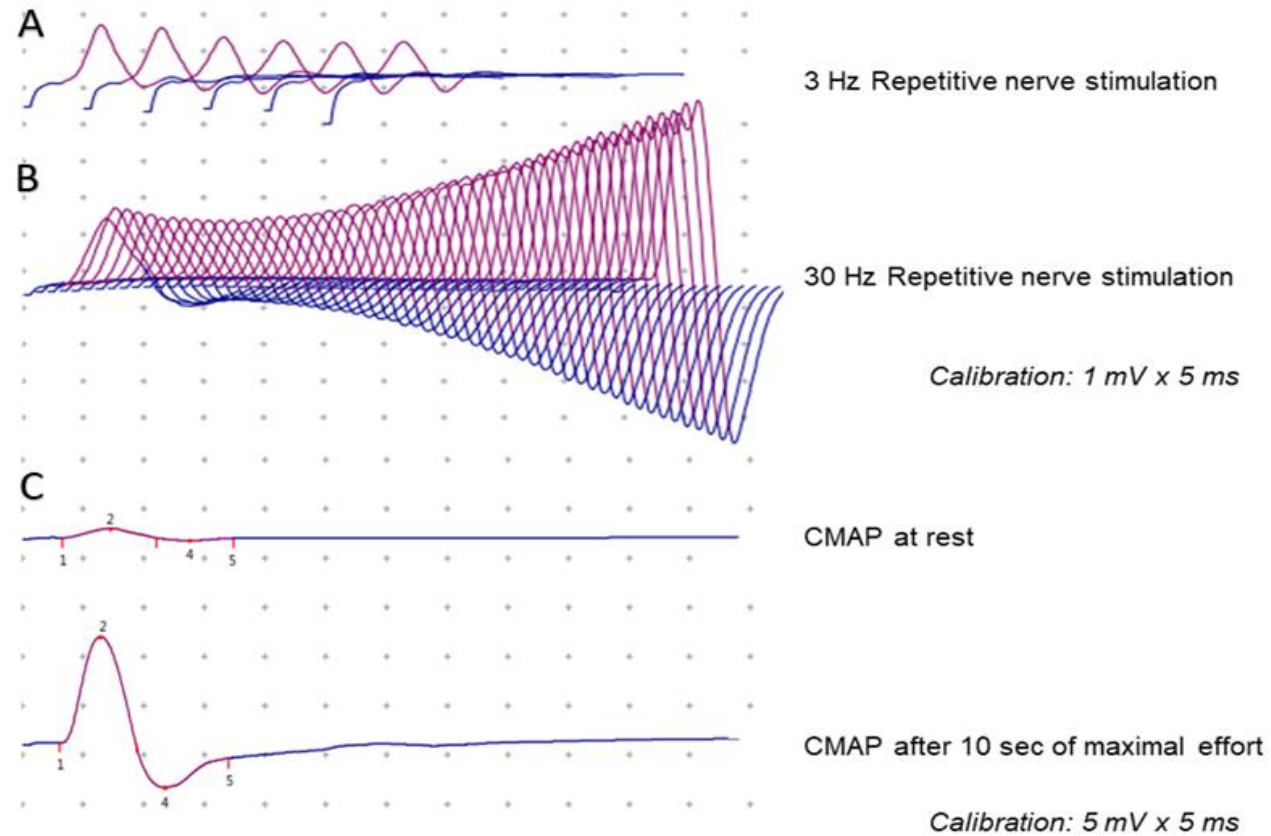
Vignette

- A 41-year-old woman presented with progressive fluctuating lower limb weakness, urinary incontinence and dry eyes and mouth.
- Physical examination revealed proximal flaccid tetraparesis (MRC4)
- The patellar reflex was absent, but with post-exercise facilitation (video).
- Eyelid and eye movements were normal.
- Electroneuromyography revealed a presynaptic neuromuscular junction disorder (figure).
- Antibodies anti-voltage-gated calcium channels were positive.
- Periodic cancer screening, including whole-body FDG-PET, was negative during 2 years of follow-up.

Video

Postexercise facilitation of
patellar reflex (before
treatment)

Image



Reflex Facilitation in Lambert-Eaton Myasthenic Syndrome

- These findings were consistent with non-paraneoplastic Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome¹.
- Patient had a good response to intravenous immunoglobulin.
- The presence of ascending muscle weakness, autonomic dysfunction, and post-exercise facilitation of reflexes should raise suspicion for the diagnosis.