Teaching Video NeuroImages: Complex partial seizure evolving into a psychogenic nonepileptic seizure

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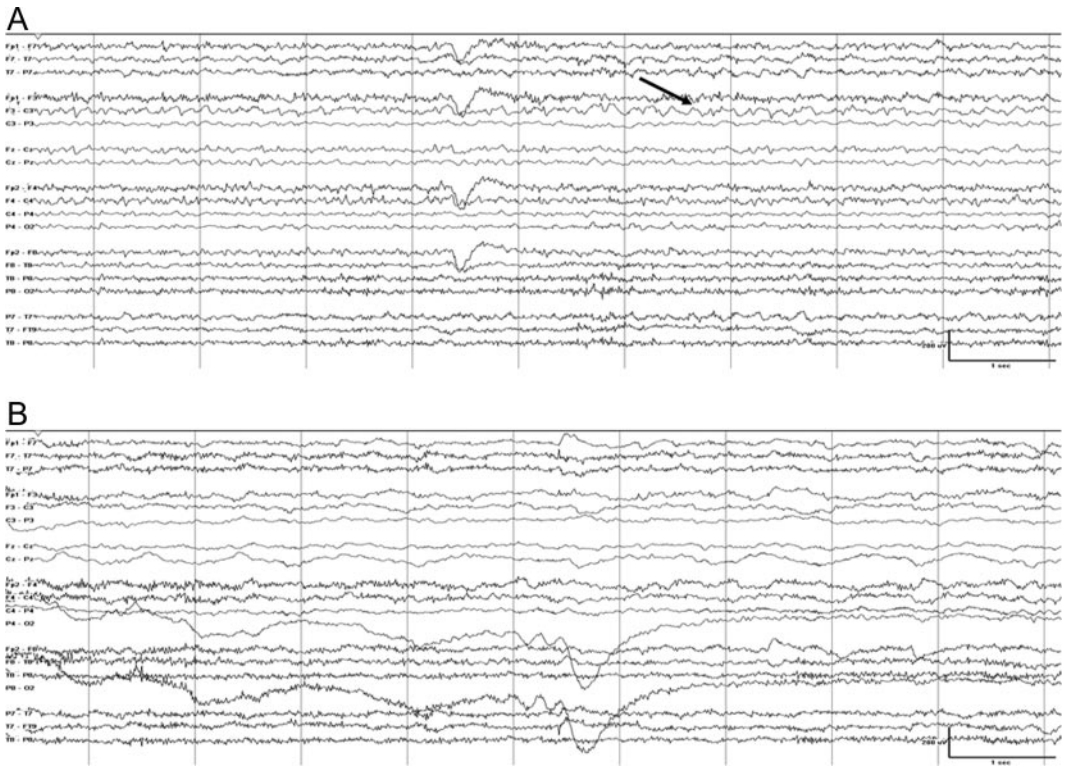
Figure EEG recording



(A) Left frontal electrographic seizure with right arm clonic activity (see arrow). (B) No further electrographic seizure activity during continued right arm dysrhythmic jerking movements. Sensitivity 10 μV/mm.

An 11-year-old, right-handed girl was admitted for video-EEG monitoring of nocturnal paroxysms consisting of eye opening, groans, right arm shaking, and altered consciousness (see video on the *Neurology*® Web site at www.neurology.org). Ictal video-EEG suggested a left frontal seizure; subsequent behavioral disturbances including dysrhythmic right arm shaking and confusion continued without electrographic correlate (figure). Although epileptic and nonepileptic seizures frequently coexist, this case illustrates the rare direct evolution of a complex partial epileptic seizure into a nonepileptic seizure and highlights the importance of video-EEG monitoring in discerning epileptic from nonepileptic events.[1] Ictal activation or disinhibition of emotional neural circuitry is one proposed mechanism for this phenomenon.

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REFERENCE

1. Devinsky O, Gordon E. Epileptic seizures progressing into nonepileptic conversion seizures. Neurology 1998;51:1293–1296.

Supplemental data at www.neurology.org

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