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How to Approach Hyperkinetic Movement Disorders: Myoclonus

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Myoclonus is a sudden, brief, involuntary movements caused by muscular contraction or inhibition, originating either in the central or peripheral nerve system. Myoclonus must be distinguished from other hyperkinetic movement disorders in first step of the clinical approach for patients with myoclonus. The next step is localization of the neuroanatomical substrate of the myoclonic jerks. The clinical features and electrophysiological tests help the recognition and localization of myoclonus. And then, the identification of causes of myoclonus is required. The neuroimaging study, laboratory and genetic investigation, medication and toxic agent exposure history may be needed during work-up for etiology of myoclonus.

Key Words: Myoclonus, Hyperkinetic movement disorders, Clinical approach

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