

# A 50-year-old woman with dysphagia and dysarthria

Teaching NeuroImages Neurology  
Resident and Fellow Section

# Vignette

- A 50-year-old woman developed severe dysphagia and dysarthria 5 years before assessment with spontaneous improvement. She represented with worsening painless dysphagia and dysarthria over the 8 months prior to assessment.
- There was no history of radiation exposure.
- Examination revealed involuntary tongue movements, reduced right tongue bulk and deviation to the right on protrusion. Remaining neurological examination was normal.
- Contrast enhanced MRI brain/skull base was normal.

# Video

**Tongue Retracted**



# Tongue Myokymia in Hypoglossal Neuropathy

- Ultrasound demonstrated spontaneous repeated twisting movements within the tongue muscles.
- Right genioglossus electromyography confirmed myokymia and sparse fasciculations with background chronic neurogenic motor unit rearrangement and reduced recruitment.
- The diagnosis was chronic idiopathic hypoglossal neuropathy with clinical remission but subsequent deterioration due to the development of nerve hyperexcitability.