

A 7 year old boy with poorly controlled seizures

Teaching Neuro*Images*

Neurology

Resident and Fellow Section

Vignette

- 7-year-old boy with poorly controlled epilepsy
- Seizure onset at 3 years of age
- Semiology: focal motor seizure of left face then left arm followed by confusion and aphasia
- Prominent behavioral and school difficulties
- Non-revealing brain MRI and epilepsy gene panel (*GRIN2A* negative)
- Admitted for clarification of underlying diagnosis: Valproic acid monotherapy (~23 mg/kg/d) weaned by Day 2 and habitual event captured on Day 5.

Video



Atypical Childhood Epilepsy with Centrotemporal Spikes – seizures often discussed, rarely seen

- The diagnosis is consistent with atypical childhood epilepsy with centrotemporal spikes
- This differs from childhood epilepsy with centrotemporal spikes/Benign Rolandic epilepsy because of:
 - Earlier onset of seizures and increased seizure burden
 - EEG with background slowing and stereotyped discharges
 - Atypical seizure semiology
 - More prominent neurodevelopmental comorbidities
 - Poorly controlled epilepsy