Abnormal movements in newborn babies

Abnormal movements in newborn baby

Seizure Activity

Electrographical

Focal
Seizure activity involves one area of brain affecting one side of body

Multifocal
Seizure activity involves more than one area of brain affecting several body parts

Generalised
Seizure activity involves both hemispheres of brain

Clinical
- Clonic–recurrent muscle contraction
- Tonic–sustained muscle contraction
- Myoclonic–brief active muscle contraction
- Subtle–automatisms
  - Autonomic phenomena
  - Ocular-orbital phenomena
  - Orolingual phenomena
  - Hypomotor

Non-seizure activity

- Jitteriness
- Excessive startles
- Benign neonatal sleep clonus
- Tremors
- Clonus

Jitteriness versus seizures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical features</th>
<th>Jitteriness</th>
<th>Seizures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal gaze/eye movement</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Predominant movement</td>
<td>Tremor, rapid, oscillatory</td>
<td>Clonic, jerking, tonic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movements cease with passive flexion</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stimulus provoked movement</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conscious state/autonomic change</td>
<td>Awake or asleep</td>
<td>Altered</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations: > Greater than


Queensland Clinical Guidelines