Clinical features of infantile nystagmus syndrome

Características clínicas da síndrome do nistagmo infantil

Leonardo Eleuterio Ariello¹

1. Division of Ophthalmology, Laboratory of Investigation in Ophthalmology, Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, SP, Brazil.

In this video, we present the case of a 23-year-old girl with congenital nystagmus and poor vision in both eyes resulting from congenital ocular toxoplasmosis.

Congenital nystagmus, also known as infantile nystagmus syndrome (INS), is a common finding in clinical practice. While some cases are congenital, INS typically develops in early infancy. It is important to suspect visual loss in any patient with INS and conduct a comprehensive ophthalmic examination in all cases¹.

Differentiating INS from acquired forms of nystagmus is crucial because new-onset nystagmus in childhood may indicate severe neurological diseases. Ophthalmologists can utilize certain clinical features to distinguish between the two conditions².

In Figure 1, we present seven clinical characteristics that, although not exclusive to INS, aid in differentiating it from acquired forms of nystagmus. These features should be evaluated in every patient presenting with nystagmus to ensure an accurate diagnosis.

Corresponding author: Leonardo E. Ariello. E-mail: leonardo.ariello@hc.fm.usp.br
Received on: Apr 17, 2023. Accepted on: June 11, 2023.
Funding: No specific financial support was available for this study. Conflict of interest: None of the authors have any potential conflict of interest to disclose.
How to cite: Ariello LE. Clinical features of infantile nystagmus syndrome. eOftalmo. 2023;9(3):113-4.
DOI: 10.17545/eOftalmo/2023.0032

This content is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.
Seven Clinical Features of Infantile Nystagmus Syndrome

1. Present from birth or early infancy
2. Usually conjugated and predominantly horizontal
3. Pendular, punctuated by foveation periods
4. Accentuated by visual attention
5. Accompanied by head turn
6. Suppressed with convergence
7. Presence of a null point

Figure 1. Seven clinical features of infantile nystagmus syndrome.

REFERENCES

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Leonardo Eleuterio Ariello
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7031-2419
http://lattes.cnpq.br/1417602536827866