

Clinical features of infantile nystagmus syndrome

Características clínicas da síndrome do nistagmo infantil

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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.



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- 2. Usually conjugated and predominantly horizontal
 - 3. Pendular, puctuated by foveation periods
 - 4. Accentuated by visual attention
 5. Accompanied by head turn
 6. Supressed with convergence
 - 7. Presence of a *null point*

Figure 1. Seven clinical features of infantile nystagmus syndrome.

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