

Prominent artifact on EEG due to abnormal eye movements

Roohi Katyal, Jennifer L. Hopp

University of Maryland Medical
Center – Neurology, 110 S. Paca
St., 3S-131 Baltimore Maryland
21201-1595, USA

- We report a 56-year-old man with severe encephalopathy due to ehrlichiosis.
- Examination was significant for a comatose state and lack of spontaneous eye opening.
- Ocular examination showed eye movements in different directions including horizontal plane and frequent, fast downward eye movements, followed by a slower upward component.
- Activity corresponding to these eye movements on EEG was seen as asymmetric high-voltage potentials in the anterior channels with a sharply rising ascending phase, followed by a slower descending phase. This, at times, was followed by a slow after-wave, thus simulating a sharp wave *[Figure 1]*.
- An electrooculogram (EOG) was utilized for characterization of these deflections. All similar potentials recorded in the anterior channels corresponded to an EOG phase reversal. *[Figure 2]*

Figure 1 shows EEG in a longitudinal bipolar montage showing high-voltage potentials with sharp morphology maximum in the bilateral anterior channels with sharply rising ascending phase followed by a slower descending phase (blue arrow). Note the presence of a positive phase reversal in EOG corresponding to the high-voltage deflections with sharp morphology. EEG settings: Sensitivity 10 $\mu\text{V}/\text{mm}$, HFF 70 Hz, LFF 1 Hz. EOG settings: Sensitivity 15 $\mu\text{V}/\text{mm}$, HFF 70 Hz, LFF 1 Hz

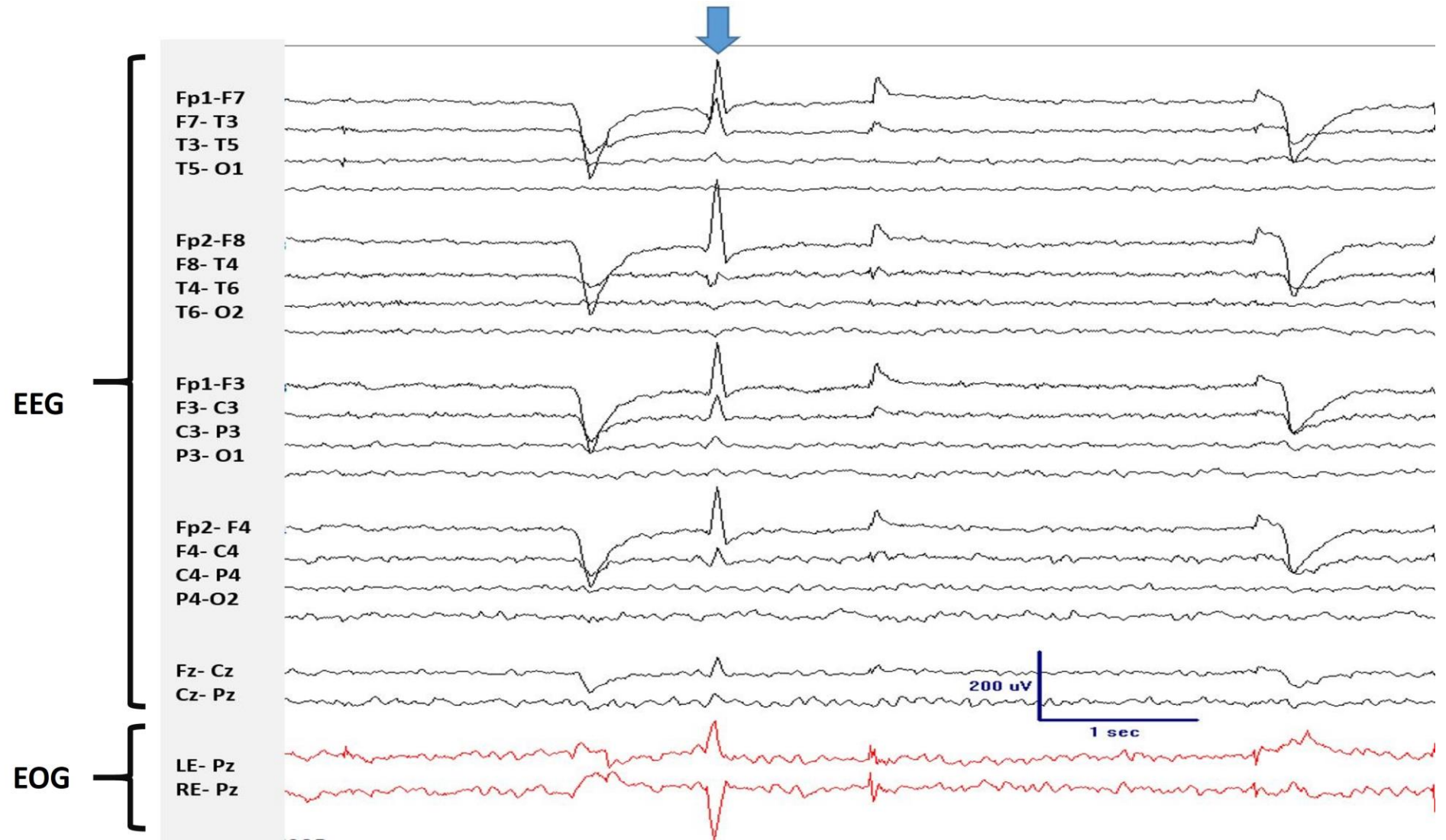
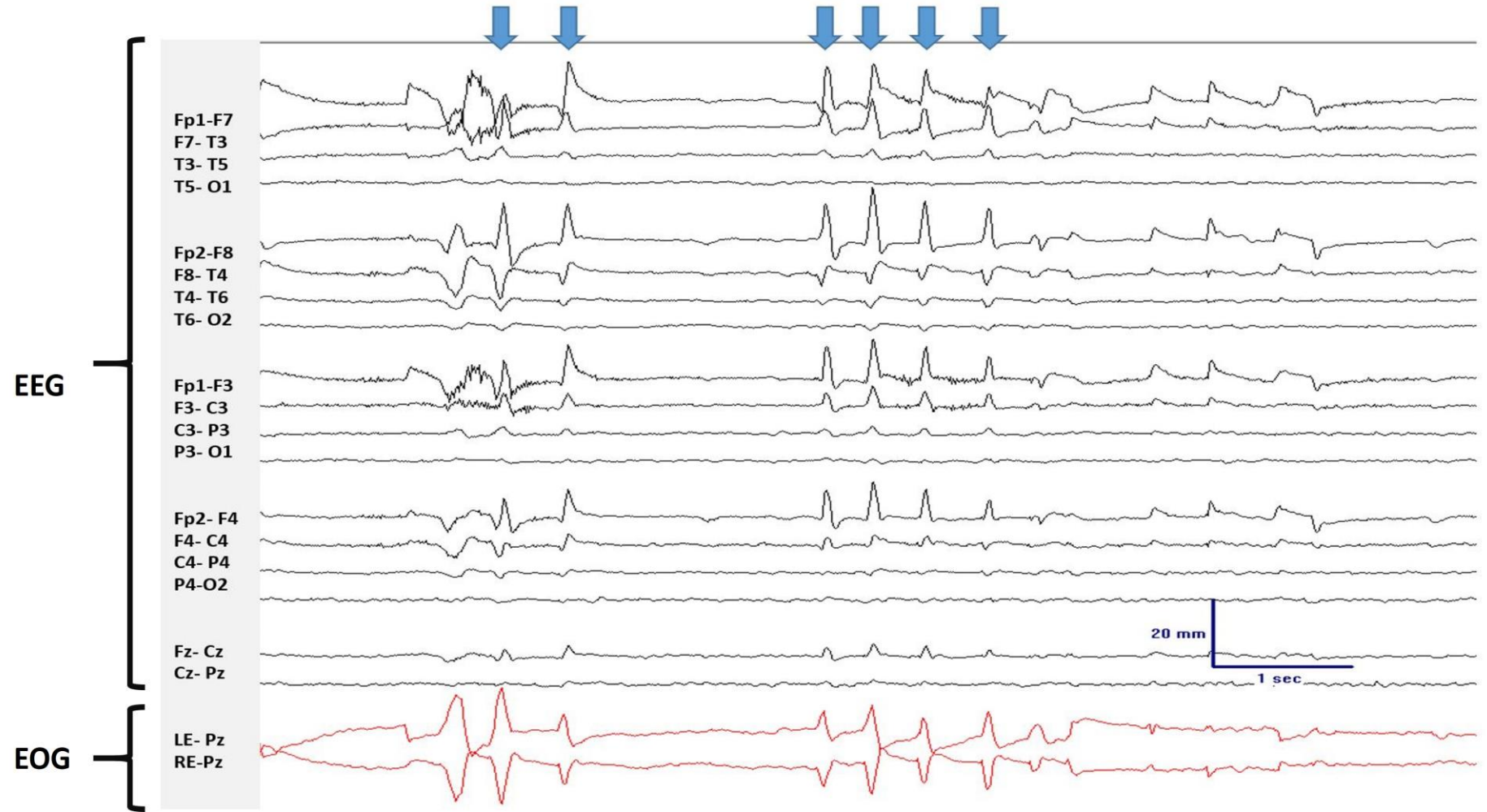


Figure 2 shows additional similar asymmetric potentials recorded in the anterior channels (blue arrows) noted throughout the recording. Note the presence of a positive phase reversal in EOG corresponding to the high-voltage deflections with sharp morphology confirming that these are in fact eye movements. EEG settings: Sensitivity 20 $\mu\text{V}/\text{mm}$, HFF 70 Hz, LFF 1 Hz. EOG settings: Sensitivity 30 $\mu\text{V}/\text{mm}$, HFF 70 Hz, LFF 0.5 Hz



- It is crucial to accurately distinguish non-epileptiform transients with sharp morphology from interictal epileptiform discharges to avoid misdiagnosis. A recent study showed a high specificity of >95% in identification of epileptiform discharges using a cut-off of 5 out of 6 criteria proposed by the International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology. [1]
- Additionally, an EOG in which eye movements can be identified with opposite phase deflections, can further aid in identifying this finding. [2]

References

- 1. Kural MA, Duez L, Sejer Hansen V, Larsson PG, Rampp S, Schulz R, Tankisi H, Wennberg R, Bibby BM, Scherg M, Beniczky S. Criteria for defining interictal epileptiform discharges in EEG: A clinical validation study. *Neurology*. 2020;94(20):e2139-e2147.
- 2. Rosado Coelho C, Fernandez-Baca Vaca G, Lüders HO. Electrooculogram and submandibular montage to distinguish different eye, eyelid, and tongue movements in electroencephalographic studies. *Clin Neurophysiol*. 2018;129(11):2380-91.