

Syncope due to ictal asystole: a challenging semiology

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Ictal bradycardia or asystole is very rare and occurs more commonly in left temporal lobe seizures.

It may be life-threatening, and pacemaker implantation is indicated in specific situations.



MRI showing an ictal asystole causing a right medial temporal lesion, with involvement of the uncus, amygdala and head of the hippocampus, with ill-defined limits

The correct diagnosis of ictal-induced asystole can be confounded by associated motor signs.

The sudden occurrence of atonia signifies the onset of seizure-induced syncope and is followed by posturing and a few myoclonic jerks.



Motor posturing during recovery from an ictal-induced asystole, mimicking convulsive syncope.