Post-encephalitic parkinsonism

This is a rare unpublished photograph preserved by Professor Emeritus Donald W Mulder, MD, of a young boy who was seen at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester somewhere between 1920 to 1930, who was diagnosed with post-encephalitic parkinsonism. His rigid stance is associated with a stooped posture, paucity of facial expression, slightly flexed knees, and arms stiffly fixed at the sides. On initiating a step, the patient gives the impression of a shuffling gait.

Encephalitis lethargica, also known as von Economo’s encephalitis, was a global pandemic that affected more than a million people all over the world from 1915 to 1930. Although parkinsonism was occasionally seen during the acute encephalitic phase of encephalitis lethargica, it was often encountered in the post-encephalitic phase. The onset of post-encephalitic parkinsonism can be delayed by several years from the resolution of encephalitis lethargica.

VIRGILIO G H EVIDENTE
KATRINA A GWINN
Department of Neurology,
Mayo Clinic,
Scottsdale, 13400 East Shea Boulevard,
Scottsdale, AZ 85259, USA

Correspondence to: Dr K A Gwinn.
Post-encephalitic parkinsonism

VIRGILIO G H EVIDENTE and KATRINA A GWINN

*J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 1998 64: 5
doi: 10.1136/jnnp.64.1.5

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://jnnp.bmj.com/content/64/1/5

These include:

**Email alerting service**
Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

**Topic Collections**
Articles on similar topics can be found in the following collections

- Parkinson's disease (690)
- Infection (neurology) (494)

**Notes**

To request permissions go to:
http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/