A rare neuro-ophthalmological phenomenon: Marcus Gunn jaw winking ptosis

Thirumalaivasan Dhasakeerthi MBBS¹, Paul Drake MD², Akilandeswari Aravindhan MBBS², Aravindhan Veerapandiyan MD²

¹ Department of Neurology, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis TN
² Division of Neurology, Department of Pediatrics, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Arkansas Children's Hospital, Little Rock, AR

Patient is a 13 year old girl with right upper eyelid ptosis since birth and elevation of her right upper eyelid with mouth opening, lateral jaw movements, and tongue protrusion. Marcus Gunn jaw winking ptosis is extremely rare occurring in 2-13% of patients with congenital ptosis. It is due to aberrant neuronal connection between motor fibers of trigeminal nerve and superior division of oculomotor nerve that innervates levator palpebrae superioris¹. Acquired forms may develop after eye surgery, trauma, syphilis, and pontine tumors. It is mostly sporadic but can be associated with amblyopia, strabismus, and anisometropia².

Corresponding author:
Aravindhan Veerapandiyan, MD
Arkansas Children’s Hospital
Office phone: 501-364-1850
Fax: 501-364-6077
aveerapandiyan@uams.edu

References