

An epileptic spasm is a sudden flexion, extension or mixed flexion-extension of proximal and truncal muscles, lasting 1-2 seconds i.e. longer than a myoclonic jerk (which lasts milliseconds) but not as long as a tonic seizure (which lasts > 2 seconds). Spasms typically occur in a series, usually on waking. Subtle forms may occur with only chin movement, grimacing, or head nodding. Spasms may be bilaterally symmetric, asymmetric, or unilateral.

CAUTION Epileptic spasms usually occur in a series (several in a cluster) right arrow if singular, consider other seizure types.

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