A 9-month-old boy had a short history of “yes–yes” head bobbing (video on the Neurology® Web site at www.neurology.org). Mild global delay prompted investigation. Imaging (figure, A–C), biochemical, and molecular findings (table e-1) were consistent with succinic semialdehyde dehydrogenase (SSADH) deficiency.

SSADH deficiency, a γ-aminobutyric acid degradation disorder, may be associated with movement disorder, including late-onset paroxysmal dystonia responsive to vigabatrin,1 but head bobbing has not been reported. In SSADH deficiency, head bobbing may be due to increased γ-hydroxybutyrate affecting diencephalic extrapyramidal pathways via the thalamic dorsomedial nucleus.2 Other disorders associated with “yes–yes” head bobbing include spasmus nutans (associated with nystagmus), rhombencephalosynapsis (cerebellar malformation), and bobble-head doll syndrome (third ventricular lesions).

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