Patients diagnosed with the neurodegenerative disorder amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS; also known as Lou Gehrig disease) frequently develop dissociated atrophy of the lateral intrinsic hand muscles (figure, A).1 Preferential wasting of abductor pollicis brevis and first dorsal interosseous muscles, with relative preservation of the lateral abductor digit minimi, is termed the ALS split hand.2 Differential cortical representation of these muscles, linked to the evolution of an opposable thumb, is one postulated explanation.2

Matthew C. Kiernan, MBBS, PhD, DSc, FRACP, Martin R. Turner, MA, MBBS, PhD, FRCP

From the Sydney Medical School and Brain & Mind Centre (M.C.K.), University of Sydney, Australia; and Oxford University Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences (M.R.T.), John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, UK.

Author contributions: Prof. Turner contributed to concept, design, and revision of the manuscript. Prof. Kiernan contributed to concept, design, and revision of the manuscript.

Study funding: No targeted funding reported.

Disclosure: Martin R. Turner receives funding support from the Medical Research Council & Motor Neurone Disease Association Lady Edith Wolfson Senior Clinical Fellowship. Matthew C. Kiernan receives funding support from National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia (Forefront Program Grant). He serves as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery & Psychiatry (BMJ Publishers). Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures.

Correspondence to Prof. Kiernan: matthew.kiernan@sydney.edu.au

Lou Gehrig and the ALS split hand
Matthew C. Kiernan and Martin R. Turner
Neurology 2015;85;1995
DOI 10.1212/WNL.000000000002172

This information is current as of November 30, 2015

Updated Information & Services
including high resolution figures, can be found at:
http://www.neurology.org/content/85/22/1995.full.html

References
This article cites 2 articles, 0 of which you can access for free at:
http://www.neurology.org/content/85/22/1995.full.html##ref-list-1

Subspecialty Collections
This article, along with others on similar topics, appears in the following collection(s):
All Clinical Neurology
http://www.neurology.org/cgi/collection/all_clinical_neurology
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
http://www.neurology.org/cgi/collection/amyotrophic_lateral_sclerosis
-

Permissions & Licensing
Information about reproducing this article in parts (figures, tables) or in its entirety can be found online at:
http://www.neurology.org/misc/about.xhtml#permissions

Reprints
Information about ordering reprints can be found online:
http://www.neurology.org/misc/addir.xhtml#reprintsus

Neurology ® is the official journal of the American Academy of Neurology. Published continuously since 1951, it is now a weekly with 48 issues per year. Copyright © 2015 American Academy of Neurology. All rights reserved. Print ISSN: 0028-3878. Online ISSN: 1526-632X.