

Opisthotonic positioning

Boardlike rigidity of abdominal and limb muscles

Difficulty swallowing

Extreme sensitivity to external stimuli (slight noise, gentle touch, or bright light):

- Trigger paroxysmal muscle contractions that last seconds to minutes
- Contractions recur with increased frequency until almost continuous (sustained, tetanic)

Laryngospasm and tetany of respiratory muscles:

- Accumulated secretions
- Respiratory arrest
- Atelectasis
- Pneumonia

Other Aspects

Mentation unaffected; patient alert

Pain, anxiety, and distress reflected in:

- Rapid pulse
- Sweating
- Anxious facial expression