2023 BRAIN DEATH GUIDELINE



eTABLE 4. DESCRIBED SPINAL REFLEXES IN BD/DNC*	
Reflex	Description
Decerebrate-type movements ²⁷	Spontaneous extension of the extremities
Extensor-like posturing ²⁷	Back arching to the left or right
Eyelid opening ²⁷	Opening of the eyelids after nipple stimulation
Fasciculation ^{e89}	Twitching of contiguous groups of muscle fibers
Head turning ^{27, e90-e92}	Intermittent head turning from side to side every 10-30 seconds with or without extension of the upper extremities
Hugging ²⁷	Flexion of the trunk and movement of the arms in a hugging-like manner
Lazarus sign ^{27, e89, e93-e98}	Bilateral arm flexion, shoulder adduction, and hand raising to chest, face, or endotracheal tube with dystonic posturing of the fingers
Limb elevation ²⁷	Raising of limbs off the bed
Myoclonus ^{e89}	Twitching or contraction of a muscle or group of muscles
Plantar response ^{e89}	Plantar flexion
Pronator-extension ^{e89}	Pronation and extension of the upper extremity
Respiratory-like movements ²⁷	Adduction of both shoulders followed by a slow cough-like movement
Repetitive leg movements ^{e99}	Slight flexion of the leg and foot
Thumbs Up sign ^{e100}	Isolated thumb extension
Triple flexion ^{e89}	Flexion of the thigh, leg, and foot
Undulating toe ²⁷	Slow flexion then extension of the toes

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^{*} The terminology for the reflex and description included in this table are directly reproduced from the World Brain Death Project, which took them directly from the literature. Because it can sometimes be challenging to determine if a movement is cerebrally or spinally mediated, if there is any uncertainty, as per Rec 16b, determination of BD/DNC should include an ancillary test.