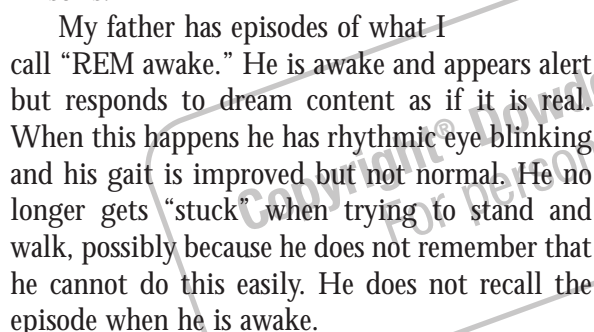


I read with great interest Dr. Henry Nasrallah's editorial, "Pathways of pleasure and pain," and his postscript describing dopamine's role in regulating the sleep-wake cycle (CURRENT PSYCHIATRY, November 2006, p. 11-2). I am a psychiatrist and regularly observe my father who suffers from Parkinson's disease caused by stroke, not progressive idiopathic Parkinson's.



My father can rapidly transition out of “REM awake” when I have him close his eyes, relax, then stretch. His vital signs do not change, and EEG does not show a seizure.

When he “wakes” he cannot get up from his chair without great difficulty but is aware of his surroundings. This is his baseline. I therefore believe the process Dr. Nasrallah described in mice is present and observable in humans.

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