

## Acute muscular weakness

Por: [Torricelli, RPJE](#) (Erazo Torricelli, Ricardo Pablo Javier)<sup>[1,2]</sup>

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### Resumen

Acute muscle weakness (AMW) is a pediatric emergency. During diagnostic approach, it is crucial to obtain a detailed anamnesis, including: onset of weakness, history of associated febrile states, ingestion of toxic substances/toxins, immunizations, and family history. Neurological examination must be acucious as well. In this review, we describe the most common diseases related to AMW, grouped into the site of origin (from the upper motor neuron to the motor unit). Early detection of hyperCKemia may lead to a myositis diagnosis, and hypokalemia orients the diagnosis of periodic paralysis. Ophthalmoparesis, ptosis and bulbar signs are suggestive of myasthenia gravis or botulism. Distal weakness and hyporeflexia are clinical features of Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS), the most frequent cause of AMW. If all studies are normal, a psychogenic cause should be considered. Finding the etiology of AMW is essential to accomplish treatment in a timely manner, improving the prognosis of affected children.

### Palabras clave

**Palabras clave de autor:** [acute muscle weakness](#); [poliomyelitis](#); [Guillain Barre syndrome](#); [infant botulism](#); [myasthenia gravis](#)

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### Información del autor

**Dirección para petición de copias:** [Torricelli, RPJE](#) (autor para petición de copias)

 [Hosp Ninos Luis Calvo Mackenna, Neurol Pediat, Antonio Varas 360 Providencia, Santiago, Chile.](#)

### Direcciones:

 [ 1 ] [Hosp Ninos Luis Calvo Mackenna, Neurol Pediat, Santiago, Chile](#)

[ 2 ] [Clin Alemana, Santiago, Chile](#)

**Direcciones de correo electrónico:** [ricardoerazo@yahoo.com](mailto:ricardoerazo@yahoo.com)

### Editorial

ASSOC ARQUIVOS NEURO- PSIQUIATRIA, PR AMADEU AMARAL 47/33, 01327-010 SAO PAULO SP, BRAZIL

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