

## Mother of a two-year boy who is not walking

Your patient is an actor but you are NOT. Do what you could do as a third year student. Try to gather knowledge in advance.

This mother of two-year-old boy is waiting to discuss about the EMG report of her son with you. You have not seen this mother earlier.

Consultant paediatrician has decided that this boy is a bottom shuffler.

Child seems to be happy moving around on his buttocks all over the place.

### Facts about EMG

EMGs are performed to study the electrical activities in the nerves and muscles involving movements. They are useful in evaluation of many disease conditions. In this case it is a normal report supporting to exclude the possibility of muscle disease.

### Facts about bottom shuffling

Bottom shuffling is not an uncommon condition where babies start moving on their bums instead of getting up and walking on foot. However these babies finally learn to walk and overcome this problem but it takes about two years for them to achieve walking pattern of a normal child. Bottom shufflers are not deficient in all forms of their skills and intelligence.

However this delay creates anxiety in parents.

Other conditions need consideration when a child is not walking at the normal expected time of walking (13 months) includes neuromuscular disorders and structural defects in lower limbs. In this case a consultant paediatrician has done a complete evaluation to exclude other possibilities. Involvement of other aspects of development like fine motor and vision, hearing and speech along with social behaviour has been evaluated and found to be normal.

Bottom shuffling has a genetic component in inheritance. In some families more than one sibling or their parents may have a similar pattern of walking. If you try to land on the floor on his foot, they will raise their feet in order to land on their buttocks.

