Beevor’s sign

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Charles Edward Beevor (1854–1908) was a distinguished British neurologist and one time President of the Neurological Society of the United Kingdom (Tashiro 2001). Image courtesy of Institute of Neurology UCL.
WHERE THE SIGN MAY HELP IN DIAGNOSIS

Spinal lesions
The rectus abdominis muscle at the level of the umbilicus is supplied by the T10 nerve roots. Lesions of the spinal cord or roots between T10 and 12 will cause weakness of the lower part of the muscle, and thus a positive Beevor's sign (of similar localizing value to loss of the lower abdominal cutaneous reflexes).

Myopathies
A positive Beevor's sign is particularly associated with facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHMD), as shown in the figure. In one series it was present in 27 of 30 such patients, but not in any of 40 patients with other neuromuscular disorders (Awerbuch et al. 1990). However, it is not unique to FSHMD and either the normal Beevor's sign or the inverted form can be seen in other myopathies.

REFERENCES

Figure 1 Note the position of the umbilicus at rest (a) and the upward movement (b) when the patient starts to try and sit up.