

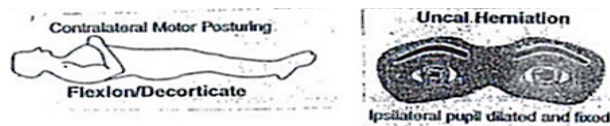
Neurological Emergencies

Identifying Warning Postures—Decorticated and Decerebrate posturing are ominous signs of central nervous system deterioration

Decorticates (abnormal flexion)

- * In decorticate posturing, the patient's arms are adducted and flexed with wrists and fingers flexed on the chest. The legs may be stiffly extended and internally rotated, with the plantar flexion of the feet.

May be indicated of a lesion in the frontal lobe, internal capsule or cerebral peduncles.



Decerebrate (extension)

- * In decerebrate posturing, the patient's arms are adducted and extended, with the wrists pronated and the fingers flexed. One or both of the legs may be stiffly extended with the plantar flexion of the feet.

May be indication of the upper brain stem.

