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**clo-nus** (klo´nəs)  [ Gr. klonos turmoil ]

1. alternate muscular contraction and relaxation in rapid succession. 2. a continuous rhythmic reflex tremor initiated by the spinal cord below an area of spinal cord injury, set in motion by reflex testing. clonic, adj

**ankle clonus**, a series of abnormal rhythmic reflex movements of the foot, induced by sudden dorsiflexion, which causes alternate contraction and relaxation of the triceps surae muscle (gastrocnemius and soleus muscles); called also [foot c.](#)

**foot clonus**, [ankle c.](#)

**patellar clonus**, rhythmic jerking movement of the patella produced by grasping it between the thumb and forefinger and pushing it suddenly and forcibly toward the foot; this is an abnormal reflex with alternate contraction and relaxation of the quadriceps muscle.

**wrist clonus**, spasmodic movement of the hand, induced by suddenly and forcibly extending the hand at the wrist.

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