

DEFINITION

1. The essential feature of these disorders is an abnormality of gross motor movement, the abnormality being a purposeless, stereotyped and repetitive jerking movement.

TYPES

2. The disorders all involve tics and include -
 - 2.1 Transient Tic Disorder.
 - 2.2 Chronic Motor Tic Disorder.
 - 2.3 Tourette's Disorder.
 - 2.4 Atypical Tic Disorder.
 - 2.5 Atypical Stereotyped Movement Disorder.
3. It is not known whether the three tic disorders represent distinct conditions or a continuum of severity.

CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS & DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA

4. **Transient Tic Disorder.**
 - 4.1 Onset during childhood or early adolescence.
 - 4.2 Presence of recurrent, involuntary, repetitive, rapid, purposeless motor movements.
 - 4.3 Ability to suppress the movements voluntarily for minutes to hours.
 - 4.4 Variation in the intensity of the symptoms over weeks or months.
 - 4.5 Duration of at least one month but not more than one year.
5. **Chronic Motor Tic Disorder**
 - 5.1 The presence of recurrent, involuntary, repetitive, rapid, purposeless movements (tics) involving no more than three muscle groups at any one time.
 - 5.2 Unvarying intensity of the tics over weeks or months.
 - 5.3 Ability to suppress the movements voluntarily for minutes to hours.
 - 5.4 Duration of at least one year.

6. **Tourette's Disorder**

- 6.1 Age at onset between 2 and 15 years.
- 6.2 The presence of recurrent, involuntary, repetitive, rapid, purposeless motor movements affecting multiple muscle groups.
- 6.3 Multiple vocal tics. The condition is characterised by repeated expostulation of obscenities and swear words and, sometimes, the vocal tics are associated with barks or grunts.
- 6.4 The ability to suppress movements voluntarily for minutes to hours.
- 6.5 Variations in the intensity of the symptoms over weeks or months.
- 6.6 Duration of more than one year.

7. **Atypical Tic Disorder**

This category is for the diagnosis of tics that cannot be adequately classified in any of the previous categories.

8. **Atypical Stereotyped Movement Disorder**

- 8.1 This category is for conditions such as head banging, rocking, repetitive hand, finger or arm movements.
- 8.2 These disorders are distinguishable from tics in that they consist of voluntary movements and are not spasmodic. Those with these conditions appear to enjoy the repetitive movements rather than to be distressed by them.
- 8.3 These conditions are found almost exclusively in children although bizarre posturing or similar movements may occur in adults.

AETIOLOGY

- 9. Explanations have been proposed in terms of psychogenic, developmental and learning theories but none of these is convincing.
- 10. The onset is often at a time of emotional disturbance and the condition may be worsened by anxiety. This does not, however, prove an emotional causation.
- 11. Despite the lack of structural pathology, an organic cause is now thought most likely, possibly involving neurotransmission in the basal ganglia.

CONCLUSION

- 12. **Stereotyped Movement Disorders** comprise a group of conditions involving purposeless motor activity. The common cause is thought to be an organic one involving neurotransmission in the basal ganglia.

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