

H) Rett's Disorder

An inherited disorder that affects only females, the syndrome causes mental retardation and developmental degeneration. The following suggest normal early development:

- **Prenatal and perinatal development appear normal.**
- **Psychomotor development appears normal at least until month 6 old.**
- **Head circumference is normal at birth.**

After this period of normal development, all of:

- **Head growth slows abnormally between 5 and 48 months.**
- **Between 5 and 30 months, the child loses already acquired purposeful hand movements and develops stereotyped hand movements such as handwashing or handwringing.**
- **Early in the course, the child loses interest in the social environment. However, social interaction often develops later.**
- **Gait or movements of trunk are poorly coordinated.**
- **Severe psychomotor retardation and impairment of expressive and receptive language.**

Associated Features:

Rett's Disorder is typically associated with Severe or Profound Mental Retardation.

Differential Diagnosis:

Some disorders have similar or even the same symptoms. The clinician, therefore, in his/her diagnostic attempt, has to differentiate against the following disorders which need to be ruled out to establish a precise diagnosis.

Autistic Disorder.

Childhood Disintegrative Disorder