

Tourette's Disorder

This is a rare disorder characterized by repetitive muscle movements and vocal outbursts. The main diagnostic criteria is as follows:

■ At some time during the illness, though not necessarily at the same time, the patient has had both of:

At least one vocal tic (A tic is a motor movement or vocalization that is nonrhythmic, rapid, repeated, stereotyped and sudden) and

Multiple motor tics:

For longer than 1 year, these tics have occurred many times each day, nearly every day or at intervals.

■ During this time, the patient never goes longer than 3 months without the tics.

■ These symptoms cause marked distress or materially impair work, social or personal functioning.

■ The symptoms begin before age 18. Approximately 1% of mainstream schoolchildren may be affected. Onset occurs with motor tics usually followed by vocal tics.

The symptoms are not directly caused by the effects of a general medical condition (such as Huntington's disease or a postviral encephalitis) or substance use (such as a CNS stimulant).

Associated Features

There may be other symptoms, such as mental coprolalia, obsessions, and compulsions. Other mental disorders are frequently associated are:

Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

Coprolalia.

Echophenomena.

Dysarthria/Involuntary Movement.

Depressed Mood.

Guilt/Obsession.

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.

Non-obscene socially inappropriate behaviour

Differential Diagnosis

Some disorders have similar or even the same symptom. The clinician, therefore, in his diagnostic attempt, has to differentiate against the following disorders which he needs to rule out to establish a precise diagnosis

Amphetamine Intoxication.

Cerebrovascular Accidents.

Lesch-Nyhan Syndrome.

Wilson's Disease.

Huntington's Chorea

Multiple Sclerosis.

Organic Mental Disorders

Schizophrenia.

Stereotypic Movement Disorder.

Pervasive Developmental Disorders.

Transient Tic Disorder.

Chronic Motor or Vocal Tic Disorder