

# Woman’s Unusual Condition Lets Her Feel Others’ Pain

Posted April 17, 2018

Category : Human Interest

## Unlocking Word Meanings

Read the following words/expressions found in today’s article.

- 1. **extraordinary** / ɪk'strɔːr dɪ ɜː i / (adj) – not common or unusual  
Example: The huge number of protesters is an **extraordinary** sight.
- 2. **pass down** / pæs daʊn / (phrasal) – to transfer something from one person to another  
Example: The disease may **pass down** from the mother to her child.
- 3. **administer** / æd'mɪn ə stər / (v) – to give medicine or treatment to someone  
Example: The medicine was **administered** to the patient.
- 4. **enraged** / ɛn'reɪdʒd / (adj) – very angry  
Example: The **enraged** man was shouting and making threats against his wife.
- 5. **agitated** / 'ædʒɪ teɪ tɪd / (adj) – restless or not calm  
Example: She got **agitated** upon hearing the bad news.

## Article

Read the text below.

小児科の看護婦  
A pediatric nurse has been diagnosed with an **extraordinary** condition that enables her to physically feel her patients’ pain.  
診察された  
  
通常では無い状態  
Megan Pohlmann was born with mirror-touch synesthesia / ˌsm æs'θi ʒə / (MTS), an unusual neurological condition that allows her to physically sense what others feel. Generally, MTS is hereditarily **passed down** from parents to offspring. In Pohlmann’s case, both her mother and sister have MTS. At present, only 1.6 percent of the world’s population has this condition.  
共感覚  
  
通常では無い神経の状態  
As a medical staff, Pohlmann uses her condition to better understand and help her patients. In one instance, she suddenly started having a headache while watching over an infant in the intensive care unit. Thinking that the infant might be experiencing the same thing, she called the doctors’ attention. After checking, the doctors found that the infant was reacting negatively to the medication **administered** to him. They immediately stopped giving the infant the said medication.  
1つの事例として  
乳幼児  
集中治療室  
  
他の方の状態を肉体的に感じる事が出来る  
Another person who has MTS is Dr. Joel Salinas, a neurologist working at Massachusetts General Hospital. Like Pohlmann, he also uses his condition to help his patients. In one case, he helped a woman who was unable to speak because of cerebral palsy. She woke up one morning screaming and seemingly **enraged**.  
== medication administered.  
とあるケースで治  
脳性マヒ  
  
一見怒っている様な(腹を立てている様な)  
When Dr. Salinas came to check on her, his body mirrored the movements of the woman’s chest and shoulders. He suspected that she might be having breathing difficulties, so he had the woman undergo a test. Results showed that the woman had blood clots in her lungs, which was why the patient seemed **agitated**. With this, Dr. Salinas was able to properly treat the woman, thus saving her life.  
使役 : テストを受けさせた(経験させた)  
血の塊が肺に存在してた  
興奮している様(心をかき乱す)集  
適切な治療

## Viewpoint Discussion

Enjoy a discussion with your tutor.

### Discussion A

- If you were Megan Pohlmann, would you work in the medical field given your unusual condition? Why or why not?

- What do you think are the advantages of having MTS (e.g. can easily relate to others' situations)?

## Discussion B

- Why is it important to understand or be aware of other people's feelings?

- Do you believe that having empathy can be learned or is it natural? Explain.

Category : Human Interest