



Home → [Health Topics](#) → Movement Disorders

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Movement Disorders

Movement disorders are neurologic conditions that cause problems with movement, such as:

- Increased movement that can be voluntary (intentional) or involuntary (unintended)
- Decreased or slow voluntary movement

There are many different movement disorders. Some of the more common types include:

- Ataxia, the loss of muscle coordination
- Dystonia [<https://medlineplus.gov/dystonia.html>] , in which involuntary contractions of your muscles cause twisting and repetitive movements. The movements can be painful.
- Huntington's disease [<https://medlineplus.gov/huntingtonsdisease.html>] , an inherited disease that causes nerve cells in certain parts of the brain to waste away. This includes the nerve cells that help to control voluntary movement.
- Parkinson's disease [<https://medlineplus.gov/parkinsonsdisease.html>] , which is a disorder that slowly gets worse over time. It causes tremors, slowness of movement, and trouble walking [<https://medlineplus.gov/walkingproblems.html>] .
- Tourette syndrome [<https://medlineplus.gov/tourettesyndrome.html>] , a condition that causes people to make sudden twitches, movements, or sounds (tics)
- Tremor [<https://medlineplus.gov/tremor.html>] and essential tremor, which cause involuntary trembling or shaking movements. The movements may be in one or more parts of your body.

Causes of movement disorders include:

- Genetics
- Infections [<https://medlineplus.gov/infectiousdiseases.html>]
- Medicines
- Damage to the brain [<https://medlineplus.gov/traumaticbraininjury.html>] , spinal cord [<https://medlineplus.gov/spinalcordinjuries.html>] , or peripheral nerves [<https://medlineplus.gov/peripheralnervedisorders.html>]
- Metabolic disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/metabolicdisorders.html>]
- Stroke [<https://medlineplus.gov/stroke.html>] and vascular diseases [<https://medlineplus.gov/vasculardiseases.html>]
- Toxins

Treatment varies by disorder. Medicines can cure some disorders. Others get better when an underlying disease is treated. Often, however, there is no cure. In that case, the goal of treatment is to improve symptoms and relieve pain.

Start Here

- Overview of Movement Disorders [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/brain-spinal-cord-and-nerve-disorders/movement-disorders/overview-of-movement-disorders>] (Merck & Co., Inc.)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/es-us/hogar/enfermedades-cerebrales-medulares-y-nerviosas/trastornos-del-movimiento/introducci%C3%B3n-a-los-trastornos-del-movimiento>]

Diagnosis and Tests

- Electromyography (EMG) and Nerve Conduction Studies [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/electromyography-emg-and-nerve-conduction-studies/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/electromiografia-y-estudios-de-conduccion-nerviosa/>]

Treatments and Therapies

- Deep Brain Stimulation for Movement Disorders [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/deep-brain-stimulation-movement-disorders>]  (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)

Related Issues

- Dressing with Ease, Style, and Comfort [<https://www.als.org/navigating-als/resources/fyi-dressing-ease-style-and-comfort>] (ALS Association)

Specifics

- Angelman Syndrome [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/angelman-syndrome>]  (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
- Myoclonus [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/myoclonus>]  (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/es/health-information/disorders/mioclonia>]
- Neuroacanthocytosis [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/neuroacanthocytosis>]  (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
- Neurodegeneration with Brain Iron Accumulation [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/neurodegeneration-brain-iron-accumulation>]  (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
- Paroxysmal Choreoathetosis Disease [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/paroxysmal-choreoathetosis>]  (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
- Paroxysmal Dystonia & Dyskinesias [<https://dystonia-foundation.org/what-is-dystonia/types-dystonia/paroxysmal/>] (Dystonia Medical Research Foundation)
- Sydenham Chorea [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/sydenham-chorea>]  (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)

Genetics

- Action myoclonus-renal failure syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/action-myoclonus-renal-failure-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- ADCY5-related dyskinesia: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/adcy5-related-dyskinesia>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Allan-Herndon-Dudley syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/allan-herndon-dudley-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Alpers-Huttenlocher syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/alpers-huttenlocher-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Angelman syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/angelman-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Ataxia with vitamin E deficiency: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/ataxia-with-vitamin-e-deficiency>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Boucher-Neuhäuser syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/boucher-neuhäuser-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)

- Christianson syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/christianson-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- CLCN2-related leukoencephalopathy: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/clcn2-related-leukoencephalopathy>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Congenital mirror movement disorder: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/congenital-mirror-movement-disorder>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Dentatorubral-pallidoluysian atrophy: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/dentatorubral-pallidoluysian-atrophy>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Essential tremor: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/essential-tremor>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Familial paroxysmal nonkinesigenic dyskinesia: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/familial-paroxysmal-nonkinesigenic-dyskinesia>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Fragile X-associated tremor/ataxia syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/fragile-x-associated-tremor-ataxia-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Hypermanganesemia with dystonia: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/hypermanganesemia-with-dystonia>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Leukoencephalopathy with brainstem and spinal cord involvement and lactate elevation: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/leukoencephalopathy-with-brainstem-and-spinal-cord-involvement-and-lactate-elevation>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- McLeod neuroacanthocytosis syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/mcleod-neuroacanthocytosis-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Mitochondrial membrane protein-associated neurodegeneration: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/mitochondrial-membrane-protein-associated-neurodegeneration>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Myoclonic epilepsy myopathy sensory ataxia: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/myoclonic-epilepsy-myopathy-sensory-ataxia>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Myoclonus-dystonia: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/myoclonus-dystonia>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Pantothenate kinase-associated neurodegeneration: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/pantothenate-kinase-associated-neurodegeneration>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Perry syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/perry-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- PRICKLE1-related progressive myoclonus epilepsy with ataxia: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/prickle1-related-progressive-myoclonus-epilepsy-with-ataxia>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Rapid-onset dystonia parkinsonism: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/rapid-onset-dystonia-parkinsonism>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Sepiapterin reductase deficiency: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/sepiapterin-reductase-deficiency>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Spinocerebellar ataxia type 1: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/spinocerebellar-ataxia-type-1>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Spinocerebellar ataxia type 2: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/spinocerebellar-ataxia-type-2>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Spinocerebellar ataxia type 36: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/spinocerebellar-ataxia-type-36>]  (National Library of Medicine)

- Spinocerebellar ataxia type 3: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/spinocerebellar-ataxia-type-3>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Spinocerebellar ataxia type 6: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/spinocerebellar-ataxia-type-6>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Succinic semialdehyde dehydrogenase deficiency: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/succinic-semialdehyde-dehydrogenase-deficiency>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- X-linked dystonia-parkinsonism: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/x-linked-dystonia-parkinsonism>]  (National Library of Medicine)

Statistics and Research

- Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) for the Treatment of Parkinson's Disease and Other Movement Disorders [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/about-ninds/what-we-do/impact/ninds-contributions-approved-therapies/deep-brain-stimulation-dbs-treatment-parkinsons-disease-and-other-movement-disorders>]  (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
Also in Spanish [<https://espanol.ninds.nih.gov/es/trastornos/estimulacion-cerebral-profunda-para-los-trastornos-de-movimiento>]

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Ataxia [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Ataxia%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Chorea [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Chorea%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Movement Disorders [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Movement+Disorders%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Tardive Dyskinesia [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Tardive+Dyskinesia%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Torticollis [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Torticollis%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Quality improvement project to routinely identify sensory and eating challenges in... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40675745>]
- Article: Rare Movement Disorders-An Approach for Clinicians. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40649801>]
- Article: Does duration Matter? Evaluating the impact of short- and long-term telemedicine... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40639190>]
- Movement Disorders -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Movement+Disorders%22%5Bmajr%3Aexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bdat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Reference Desk

- Chorea [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/glossary-neurological-terms#chorea>]  (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)

Find an Expert

- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/>] 

Children

- EMG (Electromyogram) (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/emg.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
- Tourette Syndrome: A Not-So-Frightening Diagnosis [<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/emotional-problems/pages/Tics-Tourette-Syndrome-and-OCD.aspx>] (American Academy of Pediatrics)

Patient Handouts

- Angelman syndrome [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007616.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007616.htm>]
- Chronic motor or vocal tic disorder [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000745.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000745.htm>]
- Facial tics [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001410.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001410.htm>]
- Movement - uncontrollable [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003201.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003201.htm>]
- Movement - uncontrolled or slow [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003197.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003197.htm>]
- Movement - uncoordinated [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003198.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003198.htm>]
- Movement - unpredictable or jerky [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003196.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003196.htm>]
- Neurodegeneration with brain iron accumulation (NBIA) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001225.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001225.htm>]
- Tardive dyskinesia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000685.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000685.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

[Angelman syndrome](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007616.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007616.htm>]

[Chronic motor or vocal tic disorder](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000745.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000745.htm>]

[Deep brain stimulation](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007453.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007453.htm>]

[Facial tics](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001410.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001410.htm>]

[Movement - uncontrollable](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003201.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003201.htm>]

[Movement - uncontrolled or slow](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003197.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003197.htm>]

Movement - uncoordinated [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003198.htm>]

Movement - unpredictable or jerky [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003196.htm>]

Neurodegeneration with brain iron accumulation (NBIA) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001225.htm>]

Palatal myoclonus [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001637.htm>]

Provisional tic disorder [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000747.htm>]

Sydenham chorea [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001358.htm>]

Tardive dyskinesia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000685.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Ataxia Telangiectasia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ataxiatelangiectasia.html>]

Cerebellar Disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/cerebellardisorders.html>]

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Muscle Disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/muscledisorders.html>]

Neuromuscular Disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/neuromusculardisorders.html>]

Parkinson's Disease [<https://medlineplus.gov/parkinsonsdisease.html>]

Progressive Supranuclear Palsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/progressivesupranuclearpalsy.html>]

Tourette Syndrome [<https://medlineplus.gov/tourettesyndrome.html>]

Tremor [<https://medlineplus.gov/tremor.html>]

Walking Problems [<https://medlineplus.gov/walkingproblems.html>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Movement Disorders* is the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke [<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/>]

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