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Chorea

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)

Source

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). *Chorea Information Page*.

Chorea is an abnormal involuntary movement disorder, one of a group of neurological disorders called *dyskinesias*, which are caused by overactivity of the neurotransmitter dopamine in the areas of the brain that control movement. Chorea is characterized by brief, irregular contractions that are not repetitive or rhythmic, but appear to flow from one muscle to the next. Chorea often occurs with *athetosis*, which adds twisting and writhing movements. Chorea is a primary feature of *Huntington's* disease, a progressive, hereditary movement disorder that appears in adults, but it may also occur in a variety of other conditions. *Sydenham's* chorea occurs in a small percentage (20 percent) of children and adolescents as a complication of rheumatic fever. Chorea can also be induced by drugs (levodopa, anti-convulsants, and anti-psychotics) metabolic and endocrine disorders, and vascular incidents.