

# Dystonia



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How to approach Dystonia  
by classification system

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Normal vs Abnormal

Dystonia  
definition

- Dystonia is a movement disorder characterized by sustained or intermittent muscle contractions causing abnormal, often repetitive, movements, postures, or both.
- Dystonic movements are typically patterned, twisting, and may be tremulous.
- Dystonia is often initiated or worsened by voluntary action and associated with overflow muscle activation.

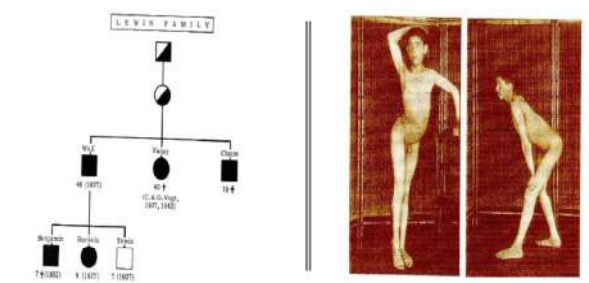
B

I. Originalmitteilungen.

1. Über eine eigenartige Krampfkrankheit des kindlichen und jugendlichen Alters (Dysbasia lordotica progressiva, Dystonia musculorum deformans).  
Von H. Oppenheim.

Im Laufe der letzten 5 Jahre ist mir wiederholtlich ein Leiden entgegengetreten, dessen Deutung und Klassifizierung große Schwierigkeit bereitet. In

Hermann Oppenheim



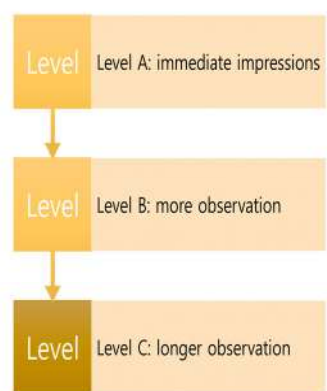
1<sup>st</sup> published dystonia

## Dystonia described by Oppenheim

Hypotonia and tonic muscle spasm, on volitional movements

No paresis, no atrophy, no alteration of electrical excitability, no sensory, nor perceptive, nor sphincter disturbances, no significant psychological abnormalities

How to describe weird movement



Level A: immediate impressions

Level B: more observation

Level C: longer observation

Level A: immediate impressions


- Rhythmic vs Arrhythmic
- Sustained vs Non-sustained
- Paroxysmal vs Continual vs Continuous
- Sleep vs Awake

How to describe weird videos



- Level A: immediate impressions
  - Rhythmic vs Arrhythmic
  - Sustained vs Non-sustained
  - Paroxysmal vs Continual vs Continuous
  - Sleep vs Awake

Level A: immediate impressions



Rhythmic	Irregular	Arrhythmic
Tremor	Cortical myoclonus	Chorea
resting	Minipolymyoclonus	Ballism
postural	Dystonic tremors	Dystonia
action	Epilepsia partialis continua	Akathic movements
intention	Moving toes, fingers	Athetosis
Orthostatic tremor		Hemifacial spasm
Dystonic tremor		Hyperreflexia
Myoclonus, segmental		Arrhythmic myoclonus
Myoclonus, oscillatory		some Stereotypies
Myorhythmia		Tics
Periodic limb movements in sleep		
some Stereotypies		
classic tardive dyskinesia		

## Level A: immediate impressions

Sustained	Non-sustained
Stiff-person	
Rigidity	All others
Dystonia	
Oculogyric crisis	
Dystonic tics	
Congenital torticollis	
Orthopedic torticollis	
Neuromyotonia	
Sandifer syndrome	

## Level A: immediate impressions

Paroxysmal	Continual	Continuous
Tics	Chorea	Abdominal dyskinesia
Paroxysmal kinesigenic dyskinesia	Ballism	Athetosis
Paroxysmal non-kinesigenic dyskinesia	Dystonic movements	Tremor
Paroxysmal exertional dyskinesia	Myoclonus, arrhythmic	Dystonic posture
Episodic ataxia	Some stereotypies	Minipolymyoclonus
Episodic tremor		Myoclonus, rhythmic
Hypnogenic dystonia		Tardive stereotypy
Some Stereotypies		Myokymia
Akathitic movements		Tic status
Some Jumpy stumps		Moving toes, fingers
		Myorhythmia

## Level B: more observation

Rest vs Action vs Overflow  
Patterned vs Non-patterned  
Combinations of movements

## Level B: more observation

Rest Only	Action Only	Rest and Continues with action
Resting tremor	Ataxia	Chorea
Akathitic movements	Tremor: postural, action, intention	Ballism
Paradoxical dystonia	Action Dystonia	Athetosis
Restless legs	Action myoclonus	Minipolymyoclonus
Orthostatic tremor	Task specific dystonia	Moving toes, fingers
Posture specific tremors		Myokymia
		Tics
		Abdominal dyskinesias

## Level B: more observation

Patterned (same muscle group)	Non-patterned
Dystonia	
Hemifacial spasm	All others
Moving toes, fingers	
Segmental myoclonus	
Myorhythmia	
Stereotypies	
Tardive dyskinesia	
Tremor	
Abdominal dyskinesias	

## Level C: longer observation

Speed: slow vs fast  
Amplitude: ballistic vs not ballistic  
Force: powerful vs easy to overcome  
Suppressibility  
Vocalizations  
Self-mutilation  
Complexity of movements  
Sensory component  
Ocular movements

## Level C: longer observation - speed

Fastest	Intermediate	Slowest
Minipolymyoclonus	Chorea	Athetosis
Myoclonus	Ballism	Moving toes, fingers
Hyperekplexia	Tremors	Myorhythmia
Startle		Akathitic movements
Hemifacial spasm		Hemifacial spasm(tonic)

## Level C: longer observation - amplitude

Large amplitude	Medium	Very Small
Ballism	Chorea	minipolymyoclonus
	All others	

## Level C: longer observation - force

Powerful	Medium	Mild
Fixed postures of dystonia	Dystonia	All others
Jumpy stumps		
Stiff-person syndrome		

## Classification of Dystonia

Mov Disord. 2013 Jun 15;28(7):863-73.

## REVIEW

## Phenomenology and Classification of Dystonia: A Consensus Update

Alberto Albanese, MD,<sup>1,2</sup> Kalesh Bhetta, MD, FRCP,<sup>3</sup> Susan B. Bressman, MD,<sup>4</sup> Mahlon R. DeLong, MD,<sup>5</sup> Stanley Fahn, MD,<sup>6</sup> Victor S.C. Fung, PhD, FRACP,<sup>7</sup> Mark Hallett, MD,<sup>8</sup> Joseph Jankovic, MD,<sup>9</sup> Hyder A. Jinnah, PhD,<sup>10</sup> Christine Klein, MD,<sup>11</sup> Anthony E. Lang, MD,<sup>12</sup> Jonathan W. Mink, MD, PhD,<sup>13</sup> Jan K. Toller, PhD<sup>14</sup>

Motor  
phenomenology  
relevant to  
dystonia

- Voluntary action induced
- Dystonic tremor
- Overflow
- Sensory trick (gestes antagonistes)

List of  
pseudodystonias

- Dystonic (tonic) tics
- Head tilt (vestibulopathy, trochlear nerve palsy)
- Bent spine, camptocormia, scoliosis
- Atlanto axial and shoulder subluxation
- Arnold-Chiari malformation
- Soft tissue neck mass
- Congenital muscular torticollis
- Congenital Klippel-Feli syndrome
- Satoyoshi syndrome
- Dupuytren's contractures
- Trigger digits
- Neuromuscular causes (Isaacs syndrome, etc.)
- Spasms (hypocalcemia, hypomagnesemia, alkalosis)
- Orthopedic and rheumatological causes
- Sandifer syndrome
- Deafferentiation (pseudoathetosis)

## Red flags on history and examination

Abnormal birth/perinatal history  
 Developmental delay  
 Seizures  
 Previous exposure to drugs e.g. dopamine receptor blockers  
 Continued progression of symptoms  
 Prominent bulbar involvement by dystonia  
 Unusual distribution of dystonia given age of onset (e.g. leg dystonia in an adult)  
 Hemidystonia  
 Presence of another movement disorder  
 Additional neurologic symptoms (pyramidal signs, cerebellar signs, cognitive decline)  
 Other systems affected (e.g. organomegaly)

## Classification of Dystonia

01

Axis I. Clinical characteristics

02

Axis II. Etiology

### Axis I. Clinical characteristics

#### Age at onset

- Infancy: birth to 2 years
  - Inherited metabolic disorder, poor prognosis
- Childhood: 3 – 12 years
  - Dystonic cerebral palsy
- Adolescence: 13 – 20 years
  - Dopa-responsive dystonia
- Early adulthood: 21 – 40 years
- Late adulthood: > 40 years
  - Sporadic focal dystonia

### Axis I. Clinical characteristics

#### Body distribution

- Focal
  - Blepharospasm
    - video
  - oromandibular dystonia
    - video
  - cervical dystonia
    - video
  - Laryngeal dystonia
    - video
  - Writer's cramp
    - video

### Axis I. Clinical characteristics

#### Body distribution

- Segmental
  - Cranial dystonia: Blepharospasm with lower facial and jaw or tongue involvement
  - Bibrachial dystonia
- Multifocal

### Axis I. Clinical characteristics

#### Body distribution

- Generalized
  - Trunk and at least 2 other sites
  - Video
- Lower limb dystonia in children may be an initial symptom of generalized dystonia
- Lower limb dystonia in adults – identifiable cause

## Axis I. Clinical characteristics

## Body distribution

- Hemidystonia
  - One side of body
  - Acquired brain lesion

## Axis I. Clinical characteristics

## Temporal pattern

- Disease course
  - Static vs Progressive
- Variability
  - Persistent
  - Action-specific
    - Occurs only during a particular activity
  - Diurnal fluctuations
    - Circadian variations
- Paroxysmal
  - Sudden self limited episodes

## Axis I. Clinical characteristics

- Associated features
  - Isolated dystonia
  - Combined dystonia
    - Myoclonus, parkinsonism, etc.

## Recognition of dystonia syndromes

- Classification along the axis facilitate clinical recognition, diagnosis, and treatment
- No pathognomonic presentation, either for genetic or environmental forms
- Some characteristic and more common syndromic patterns that are encountered in clinical practice are briefly described here as examples

## Recognition of dystonia syndromes

Early-Onset Generalized Isolated Dystonia

Focal or Segmental Isolated Dystonia with Onset in Adulthood

Dystonia-Parkinsonism

Myoclonus Dystonia

## Axis II. Etiology

## Nervous system pathology

- Anatomical causes
- Evidence of degeneration, structural lesion or not

## Inherited vs Acquired

- Inherited
- Acquired
  - Perinatal brain injury, infection, drug, toxic, vascular, neoplastic, brain injury, psychogenic

## Idiopathic

- Sporadic
- Familial

