Angelman Syndrome

Angelman syndrome is a neurological disorder. Patients with this disorder may have:

- Severe mental retardation that is present since birth (*congenital*).
- Unusual facial appearance.
- Muscular abnormalities.

SYMPTOMS

Problems (*symptoms*) of this disorder include:

- Unstable jerky gait.
- Hand flapping.
- Happy outward appearance.
- Epilepsy may develop in the early years of life but may decrease with age.
- Developmental delay.
- Lack of speech.
- Small head (*microcephaly*).
- Patients may also have balance problems.

TREATMENT

There is no standard course of treatment for this disorder.

- Physical therapy and adaptive devices may help patients with jerky gait.
- Early language evaluation and intervention is often recommended.
- Medications to control seizures may be prescribed for epilepsy.

Most individuals with this disorder will have:

- Mental delay.
- Severe speech limitations.
- An abnormal gait.

Patients may have improvement of symptoms with therapy.

RESEARCH BEING DONE

The NINDS supports research on Angelman syndrome. The purpose of this research is to continue genetic analysis of the disorder. It will try to isolate the Angelman syndrome gene(s).

Research is continually being done to learn more about this problem.

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