Chorea

Chorea is a neurological disorder characterized by uncontrolled spasmodic movements of the body. These are jerky, irregular, rapid and may move from place to place in the body. Other problems include muscle weakness or clumsiness that make it difficult to walk. Chorea is most commonly associated with Huntington's disease. Sydenham's chorea, which may follow a streptococcal infection is another type.

CAUSES

Chorea may be inherited. Huntington's is a disorder of the central nervous system which causes damage to brain cells. Sydenham's is seen in children and may develop after rheumatic fever or strep throat.

TREATMENT

There is no standard course of treatment for chorea. Some drugs may ease the symptoms. Drugs to treat infection may be used for Syndenham's.

LENGTH OF ILLNESS

Huntington's may continue for 10-20 years with a fatal outcome. Syndenham's chorea may be treated and cured.

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