C

Chorea

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Synonyms

[Dance-like](#)

Definition

Chorea is characterized by brief, irregular muscle contractions that are not repetitive or rhythmic but appear to flow from one muscle to the next. They may appear as dance-like movements of the limbs, trunk, or head. Typical movements include facial grimacing, shoulder adduction, and finger extension and contractions. They can be associated

with snakelike writhing movements of the hands or feet known as athetosis.

Current Knowledge

Chorea is a feature of Huntington's disease and may be present with rheumatic fever. It can be seen as a side effect of the medication levodopa or the dopamine agonists and may result from metabolic disorders, endocrine disorders, and vascular incidents.

Cross-References

► [Huntington's Disease](#)

References and Readings

Marshall, F. J. (2004). Clinical features and treatment of Huntington's disease. In R. L. Watts & W. C. Koller (Eds.), *Movement disorders* (2nd ed., pp. 589–603). New York: McGraw-Hill.