

Dystonia, A Complex Human Movement Disorder That is Slowly Being Understood - Rational Advances in Therapy

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Abstract: Dystonia is one of the more poorly elucidated movement disorders in humans. It may be primary or secondary, it may be a part of another neurological syndrome or may appear as an entity into itself.

Both genetic and structural, biochemical, and pharmacologic causes are implicated. Therapy has been notoriously difficult. More recently deep brain stimulation has been shown to be effective in the treatment of dystonia. This lecture will focus on the mechanisms that appear to be operant in patients with dystonia with both reference to biochemistry and electrophysiology of the basal ganglia and its role in human motor control. Video examples of patient material demonstrating stereotactic surgical technique and outcomes will be presented. Questions regarding further application of this technique in patients with other motor control disorders will be discussed.

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