

Essential Tremor

Essential tremor is a disorder of basal ganglia function and the most common cause of tremor in human (incidence in population is 1%). Its onset is pretty early and most of the patients are young adults. Typical is a positive family history and improvement after alcohol. It is getting worse during some activities of daily life (drinking, writing, eating,...).

Sometimes it can be mistaken for Parkinson's tremor and, because there is **no specific test** for the essential tremor, so we have to think about it. It is anticipated that there is a connection between these diseases and people can suffer from both of them simultaneously and their symptoms can overlap. Parkinson's disease reacts on L-dopa therapy, essential tremor usually not.

Etiology

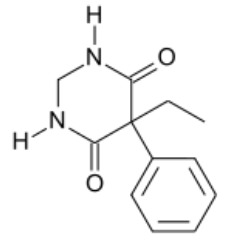
We are still not sure about the origin of this disease, but evidently there is an association with disorder of basal ganglia and cerebellum.

1) Hereditary Form

- autosomal dominant hereditary of genetic mutation
- includes more than 50% of all cases

2) Sporadic Form

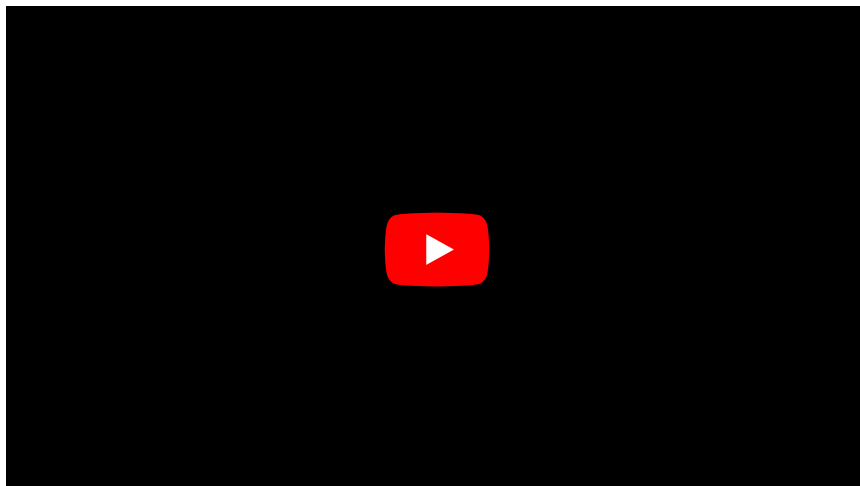
- there is no genetic mutation, but we are not sure about the cause of this form



Primidone structure

Signs of Tremor

- occurs at rest and it's twice as fast (8-12 Hz) as in people with Parkinson's disease
- mainly affects head or upper limbs
- usually asymmetric
- improves after consumption of alcohol
- getting worse during movement, stress and emotions
- middle-age onset
- in 50% of cases a positive family history



Therapy

Medication of the first choice are **β -sympatholytics** (*propranolol*) and the second on are **anti-seizure drugs** (*primidon*). The other option are **tranquilizers**, for people, whose tremor worsens by anxiety or stress.

There is one more solution for people with essential tremor, which do not answer on medication and has severe course. It's a deep brain stimulation, although it has many adverse effects and risks.

Links

Related articles

- Basal ganglia
- Tremor
- Parkinson´s disease
- Deep brain stimulation

External links

- Mayo Clinic (<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/essential-tremor/DS00367/DSECTION=symptoms>)

Bibliography

- JEDLIČKA, KELLER,, et al. *Speciální neurologie*. 1st edition. 2005. ISBN 80-7262-312-5.