

Clinical manifestation of psychogenic tics. Video - case reports.

Until the 60s of the last century tics were treated as psychogenic disorder having no organic substrate. Psychotherapy of patients and their families was the primary method of treatment and a reduction in symptoms after using behavioral techniques and other methods of psychotherapy was considered as confirmation of this hypothesis. It was only the discovery of the role of the dopaminergic system in the etiology of tics and their effective treatment with haloperidol that resulted in including tics to organic involuntary movements. Psychogenic Tics (PT) are classified as symptomatic tics. Currently, they are considered disorder of low frequency. The incidence of all PT among all psychogenic movement disorders (PMD) is estimated to be from 0% to 8%, in patients with involuntary movements and other movement disorders 0.16% and in patients with symptomatic tics on 10.3%. There is no data on how often can occur the PT in patients with tics of various etiologies.

As clinical diagnosis of PT is extremely difficult to establish, it is vital to bear in mind some of the distinctive features of this disorder. We present a comparative case report of two patients suffering from PT as an illustration of diagnostic process and phenomenology of this movement disorder.

Conclusions: PT are rare and may occur in patients with organic tics. The most typical features of PT are: early onset in adulthood, lack of simple motor tics, inability to tic suppress. The diagnosis is established if a few atypical symptoms for organic tics occur. There are spontaneous remissions possible even after many years of illness.