

# [Progressive, increasing dementia and chorea (jerking, rapid, involuntary](https://assignbuster.com/progressive-increasing-dementia-and-chorea-jerking-rapid-involuntary/)

Progressive, degenerative, inherited neurologic disease characterized by increasing dementiaand chorea (jerking, rapid, involuntary movements) and speech problems      Decreasein acetylcholine, resulting in relative excess of dopamine       Excessdopamine causes the excessive uncontrolled movements      Onsetat about 40yrs of age     Ifthere are more genetic mutations found on the affected chromosome, clinicalmanifestations can occur even earlier       AutosomalDominant      50%chance of passing      Huntingtin(HTT) found on Chromosome 4     Genetictesting looks at the amount of times “ CAG” is repeated in the coding forglutamine       InHuntington’s “ CAG” is repeated over 36 times when normally, it is only repeated10-35 times      Magneticresonance imaging (MRI) or Computerized tomography (CT)     Usedto identify specific areas of the brain effected by the disease     Usedto rule out other conditions.      PsychiatricEvaluation     EmotionalState     CopingSkills     Substanceabuse?      Movement/Psychiatric/Sensory      Movement      UnsteadyGait and involuntary movements      Slurredspeech    Difficultyswallowing      Chorea-purposeless, dance-like     Psychiatric      Personalitychanges      Moodswings      Depression      Forgetfulnessand Impaired judgment     Sensory      Hearing      EyeMovement      Significantweightloss       Huntington’sDisease cannot be cured       Treatmentaddresses disease manifestations       MovementDisorders:      Tetrabenazine(Xenazine) is approved by the FDA to suppress the involuntary jerking andwrithing movements. A serious side effect is the risk of worsening ortriggering depression     PsychiatricDisorders:    Antipsychotics, such as haloperidol (Haldol) and chlorpromazine, have a side effect ofsuppressing movements.      Antidepressants, such as citalopram (Celexa), escitalopram (Lexapro), fluoxetine (Prozac, Sarafem) and sertraline (Zoloft).

SpeechTherapy     OccupationalTherapy       Providesafe environment (jerking movement)      Providea calm and stress-free environment    Provideample time for communication     Breakingdown tasks into manageable steps Regulartoileting intervals and skin careMonitoringnutritional intake; may need gastrostomy feedings    Assistwith ADLs     Explainneed for guardianship and advanced directives  Useof hand rail while in home   Useof assistive devices (ie. walker)    Useof calendar and schedule to help keep routine     Appropriatecoping mechanisms      FamilyPlanning to prevent passing disease to offspring    Alternatives(adoption)    Spermor egg donationUseof invitro to select only gene negative embryos for implantation