

Tic Disorders and their Categories

Tic disorders fall into different categories and the types of tic disorders are as follows: Tourette's Disorder, Chronic Motor or Vocal Tic Disorder, Transient Tic Disorder, or Tic Disorder not otherwise specified.

Tourette's Disorder is when **both** multiple motor and one or more vocal tics have been present at the same time, although not necessarily concurrently. The tics occur many times a day usually in bouts nearly every day or intermittently throughout a period of more than 1 year, and during this period there was never a tic-free period of more than three months. Onset occurs prior to the age of eighteen.

Chronic Motor or Vocal Tic Disorder is when single or multiple motor or vocal tics **but not both**, have been present at some time. The tics occur many times a day nearly every day or intermittently throughout a period of more than one year and during this period there was never a tic-free period of more than three consecutive months. Onset is prior to the age of eighteen.

Transient Tic Disorder is when an individual experiences single or multiple motor and/or vocal tics and they occur many times a day nearly every day for at least 4 weeks, but for no longer than 12 consecutive months. Onset is also prior to the age of eighteen.

Tic Disorder Not Otherwise Specified is a category that is reserved for tics that do not meet the criteria for any other specific tic disorder.

The categories of Tics are either simple or complex:

Simple tics are sudden, brief movements that involve a limited number of muscle groups. They are single or isolated.

Simple vocal or motor tics involve single noises or meaningless sounds in vocal tics and movements involving one group of muscles in motor tics.

Complex tics are distinct, coordinated patterns of successive movements involving multiple muscle groups.

Complex vocal or motor tics involve words or phrases in vocal tics such as yelling obscenities seen in coprolalia or repeating the same words or phrases over and over that they heard by others seen in echolalia. Complex motor tics involve coordinated patterns of movement that involve motor tasks. Often seen are self-harming behaviors, touching their nose or someone else's nose, or smelling things.

Other types of tics are sensory, obsessive-compulsive, and impulsive tics. Treatment of tics is required only when the tics are interfering with the functioning of the patient. Symptoms of depression or obsessive-compulsive behaviors can be seen in patients with tic disorders.

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