

TOURETTES - EVERYBODY TICS DIFFERENTLY

What is Tourette Syndrome (TS)?



Tics are involuntary movements or sounds. Tourette's syndrome is one of a family of tic disorders that affect around 1% of the population, but which remains under-recognised in the community.

In paediatric special education learning disability classes, the prevalence of individuals with tic disorders is around 20 to 45%.

It is higher still in special educational emotional/behavioural classes. Given the high rates of individuals with tic disorders in special education settings, as well as the unique challenges of working in an educational setting with a student with a tic disorder, it is important for educators and allied health professionals working in this setting to be aware of the possibility of tic disorders in this population.

This series of articles seeks to provide an overview of tic disorders and their association with learning and mental health difficulties. It will also highlight the common comorbidities/overlaps with other Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD's) such as ADHD, Dyslexia and Dyspraxia, as well as focusing on strategies to support individuals with tic disorders in the classroom.

Valsamma Eapen, Rudi Črnčec, Sarah McPherson and Corina Snedden (2013). Tic Disorders and Learning Disability: Clinical Characteristics, Cognitive Performance and Comorbidity. Australasian Journal of Special Education, 37, pp 162-172 doi:10.1017/jse.2013.2

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