

## TOURETTES – EVERYBODY TICS DIFFERENTLY

### Can a Child Fake Tourettes?



#### How can you tell if it's Tourettes?

It is worth noting that involuntary movements are present in several neurological conditions (e.g. Sydenham's chorea, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease).

However, the characteristics of a tic that separate it from other involuntary movements include the waxing and waning course of tics. That is one type of tic being replaced by another.

In cases where individuals try to voluntarily suppress tics (even if only for a brief period); people must understand that a tic is preceded by an 'inner psychological urge' and in some cases a sensory sensation, such as an itch, stretch or tightness, whether it is a movement or vocal tic, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, not to respond to this urge.

Ironically the ability of some people with tic disorders to voluntarily suppress or postpone responding to this urge with a tic (although at the expense of mounting inner tension), can lead to misinterpretation by others that tics are under voluntary control.

It is important to remember that voluntary suppression of tics for a period of time may be associated with a later 'rebound' effect of an increase in the occurrence of tics in the near future.

This ability to temporarily suppress tics for a short period can, in turn, lead to a conflict for some, as the person is viewed as deliberately tic-ing or not trying hard enough to stop the tic from occurring.

*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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