

DEFINITION

- 1 **Spasmodic torticollis** is a disorder characterised by spasmodic rotation of the head, brought about by tonic or clonic contraction of the cervical muscles. **Retrocollis** (in which the neck is extended) and **antecollis** (in which the neck is flexed) are similar disorders.

CLINICAL MANIFESTATION

- 2 The posture of the head is the most obvious indication. The affected muscles may be painful and movements cease during sleep.

AETIOLOGY

- 3 The condition is usually a symptom of organic disease, generally of the extrapyramidal system, although it may, rarely, be hysterical in nature.
- 4 Being a symptom, the aetiology is that of the underlying condition.
- 5 The majority of cases are idiopathic, the cause in such cases being unknown.
- 6 The frequency and intensity of any spasms are worse during mental or emotional stress.

CONCLUSION

- 7 **Spasmodic torticollis** is a disorder characterised by spasmodic rotation of the head. It is usually a symptomatic manifestation of an underlying organic neurological disorder but may rarely be hysterical in nature. Most commonly, an underlying disorder is not discovered and the condition is then said to be idiopathic. The spasms may be temporarily worsened by mental or emotional stress.

REFERENCES

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