

Familial Cervical Dystonia, Head Tremor and Scoliosis: A Case Report

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The genetics of familial focal cervical dystonia (CD) are unknown. We describe here a family of Christian/German origin, residing in Nebraska in which the proband with CD (now in remission) has eight sibs- two of the brothers have CD, one also demonstrates vertical head and hand tremor and one sister has scoliosis of adolescent origin. The father of this generation is described as having a horizontal head tremor from mid-adult life onward, unassociated with head rotation. Six members of the generation have been examined personally while seven donated blood for genetic analysis sent in 1992 to Professor Anita Harding (now deceased) in London. Autoimmune, thyroid, and creatine kinase determination were performed locally.

The proband has three children. The older of the two daughters has had four bouts of mild CD lasting several weeks to a few months. The younger daughter has adolescent onset scoliosis. The younger has been examined and has no other evidence of dystonia or tremor. Blood from both these women has been sent to Professor Harding's laboratory. An examined, unaffected sister to the proband has a granddaughter reported to have childhood onset scoliosis (see attached family tree). Personal communication with Professor Harding in 1995 indicated the family does not have the DYT1 gene observed in generalized dystonia. The above familial pattern of relatives with CD patients having tremor or scoliosis is common in our experience (Duane, et al, *Neurology*, 1991; Duane et al, *Mov. Disord.*, 1993).

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