

Neuropsychological and Neurological Analysis
of Gilles de la Tourette Syndrome
in a Brain Damaged, Mentally-Handicapped Individual

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Gilles de la Tourette is an uncommon syndrome arising during childhood and characterized by multiple motor tics and loud vocal utterances. Until 1984, no cases of mentally deficient/retarded individuals with this unusual syndrome have been reported in the literature. We report on a 22 year white, right handed male, with an approximately 10 year diagnosis (by neurological examination) of this syndrome which manifested after numerous behavioral and intellectual were deficiencies exhibited during earlier developmental periods. Behavioral observation indicate the existence not only of multiple tics but of coprolalia and inarticulate sounds, most notably high-pitched barks. Over a period of two years he was administered the following tests; Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale, Form L-M, Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-Revised, Visual Motor Integration Battery, Vineland maturity Scale, and the Bender Gestalt Motor Test. Several other tests were attempted with limited success (e.g., WRAT, LNNB-Children's version). IQ scores ranged between 30 and 50 with a mental and social age usually in the 5 to 6 year range. Numerous hard and soft neurological signs were observed as well as abnormal EEG. Haloperidol therapy has proven unsuccessful and this individual is now undergoing trials with other pharmaceuticals.