HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE



Huntington's disease is an inherited progressive neurodegenerative disorder which impairs cognition, causes issues with movement, and has associated behavioral changes and emotional problems. There is currently no cure for Huntington's disease, but research is focused on understanding the function of the Huntington's disease gene.



Disease first described by physician George Huntington in 1872 (6)

Caused by a mutation in the HTT gene (3) Expansion of the CAG trinucleotide repeat in the HTT gene causes Huntington's disease. Normally this segment is repeated 10-35 times, but individuals with HD have

36-120+ repeats. (4)

Brain may be reduced by as much as

25-30% in advanced Huntington's disease cases. (9)

A family
in Lake Maracaibo,
Venezuela has
18,000
members
affected by the
disease (7)

The most affected brain region is the striatum (8)

Onset typically occurs between the ages of 30-50(5)

SYMPTOMS/DISORDERS(2)

- Movement disorders: Chorea, dystonia, problems with speaking/swallowing, uncoordinated fine motor skills
- Psychiatric disorders: Depression, insomnia, fatigue, bipolar disorder
- Cognitive impairments: Trouble learning, difficulties with spatial perception

