

Rett Syndrome

URL of this page: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/rettsyndrome.html>

Rett syndrome is a rare genetic disease that causes developmental and nervous system problems, mostly in girls. It's related to autism. Babies with Rett syndrome seem to grow and develop normally at first. Between 3 months and 3 years of age, though, they stop developing and even lose some skills. Symptoms include

- Loss of speech
- Loss of hand movements such as grasping
- Compulsive movements such as hand wringing
- Balance problems
- Breathing problems
- Behavior problems
- Learning problems or intellectual disability

Rett syndrome has no cure. You can treat some of the symptoms with medicines, surgery, and physical and speech therapy. Most people with Rett syndrome live into middle age and beyond. They will usually need care throughout their lives.

NIH: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Start Here

- Rett Syndrome [<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/rett/Pages/default.aspx>] **NIH** (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)
- Rett Syndrome [<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/rett/rett.htm>] **NIH** (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke) - Short Summary

Overviews

- Rett Syndrome [<http://www.mayoclinic.com/print/rett-syndrome/DS00716/DSECTION=all&METHOD=print>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- Rett Syndrome [http://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs/documents/rett_syndrome_2006.pdf] **NIH** (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development) - PDF
- Rett Syndrome [http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/rett/detail_rett.htm] **NIH** (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
Also available in Spanish [http://espanol.ninds.nih.gov/trastornos/el_sindrome_de_rett.htm]

Diagnosis/Symptoms

- How Do Health Care Providers Diagnose Rett Syndrome?
[<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/rett/conditioninfo/Pages/diagnosed.aspx>] **NIH** (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)
- What Are the Symptoms of Rett Syndrome?
[<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/rett/conditioninfo/Pages/symptoms.aspx>] **NIH** (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)

Treatment

- What Are the Treatments for Rett Syndrome?

[<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/rett/conditioninfo/Pages/treatments.aspx>] **NIH** (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)

Specific Conditions

- What Are the Types and Phases of Rett Syndrome?
[<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/rett/conditioninfo/Pages/types.aspx>] **NIH** (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)

Financial Issues

- Compassionate Allowances [<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances/>] (Social Security Administration)

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Rett Syndrome [<http://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/condition=%22Rett+Syndrome%22>] **NIH** (National Institutes of Health)

Genetics

- Genetics Home Reference: Rett syndrome [<http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/rett-syndrome>] **NIH** (National Library of Medicine)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Rett syndrome: an eye-tracking study of attention and recognition memory. [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23488948?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Article: The need for unbiased cognitive assessment in Rett syndrome: is... [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23488946?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Article: How much further can large international databases take Rett syndrome... [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23421913?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Rett Syndrome – see more articles [[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=rett+syndrome\[majr\]+AND+english\[la\]+AND+humans\[mh\]+NOT+\(letter\[pt\]+OR+editorial\[pt\]\)+AND+%22last+1+Year%22\[edat\]&tool=MedlinePlus](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=rett+syndrome[majr]+AND+english[la]+AND+humans[mh]+NOT+(letter[pt]+OR+editorial[pt])+AND+%22last+1+Year%22[edat]&tool=MedlinePlus)]

Organizations

- National Institute of Child Health and Human Development [<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/>] **NIH**
- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke [<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/>] **NIH**
Also available in Spanish [<http://espanol.ninds.nih.gov/>]

Patient Handouts

- Rett syndrome [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001536.htm>]
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/001536.htm>]

You may also be interested in these related encyclopedia pages:

- Breath holding spell [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000967.htm>]
- Rett syndrome [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001536.htm>]

You may also be interested in these related MedlinePlus topics:

- Autism [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/autism.html>]
- Degenerative Nerve Diseases [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/degenerativenervediseases.html>]
- Developmental Disabilities [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/developmentaldisabilities.html>]
- Brain and Nerves [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/brainandnerves.html>]
- Genetics/Birth Defects [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/geneticsbirthdefects.html>]

The primary NIH organization for research on *Rett Syndrome* is the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development [<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/>]

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