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Abstract

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Serotonin and the biochemical genetics of alcoholism: lessons from studies of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and Tourette syndrome.

Comings DE[1].

Author information

Abstract

Studies of children with **ADHD** and Tourette syndrome, and their families, show that both the patients and their relatives are at increased risk for alcoholism, and other behavioral disorders. Defective **serotonin** metabolism has been implicated in all of these disorders. Platelet **serotonin** and blood tryptophan levels are low in the patients and both parents. Analysis of pedigrees suggest that a gene or genes capable of producing a pleiotrophic spectrum of disorders are inherited from both parents (recessive inheritance), but affected relatives can express some symptoms (dominant inheritance). This suggests an intermediate semirecessive-semidominant inheritance of a common gene affecting **serotonin** metabolism for **ADHD**, Tourette syndrome, alcoholism and related disorders. Tryptophan 2,3 dioxygenase (TDO2) is suggested as a possible candidate gene.

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