Myopathy

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)

Source

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). Myopathy Information Page.

The myopathies are neuromuscular disorders in which the primary symptom is muscle weakness due to dysfunction of muscle fiber. Other symptoms of myopathy can include include muscle cramps, stiffness, and spasm. Myopathies can be inherited (such as the muscular dystrophies) or acquired (such as common muscle cramps). Myopathies are grouped as follows:

congenital myopathies: characterized by developmental delays in motor skills; skeletal and facial abnormalities are occasionally evident at birth

muscular dystrophies: characterized by progressive weakness in voluntary muscles; sometimes evident at birth

mitochondrial myopathies: caused by genetic abnormalities in mitochondria, cellular structures that control energy; include Kearns-Sayre syndrome, MELAS and MERRF

glycogen storage diseases of muscle: caused by mutations in genes controlling enzymes that metabolize glycogen and glucose (blood sugar); include Pompe's, Andersen's and Cori's diseases

myoglobinurias: caused by disorders in the metabolism of a fuel (myoglobin) necessary for muscle work; include McArdle, Tarui, and DiMauro diseases

dermatomyositis: an inflammatory myopathy of skin and muscle

myositis ossificans: characterized by bone growing in muscle tissue

familial periodic paralysis: characterized by episodes of weakness in the arms and legs

polymyositis, inclusion body myositis, and related myopathies: inflammatory myopathies of skeletal muscle

neuromyotonia: characterized by alternating episodes of twitching and stiffness; and

stiff-man syndrome: characterized by episodes of rigidity and reflex spasms

common muscle cramps and stiffness, and

tetany: characterized by prolonged spasms of the arms and legs