

Impact of Tourette syndrome on education

TAKE HOME MESSAGE:

Children with Tourette syndrome (TS) had a lower passing rate at lower secondary school and high school compared to healthy controls.

*This difference was more likely driven by severity of comorbidities than tic severity
Tic severity only influenced children with TS without comorbidity*

Our aim was to investigate the impact TS, TS severity and TS and comorbidities have on education.

Method: We included 314 with TS and 81 controls (mean age 12.60 ± 2.64 years). After 6-8 years, we re-examined 223 with TS and 53 controls (mean age 18.52 ± 2.73 years). At both time points, the severity of tics and morbidity were assessed. Educational achievements were assessed through structured interviews.

Results:

Cross-sectional

- Lower total motor tics score at follow up was associated with having passed high school in TS group.
- Lower educational level across TS groups at age >16 years in TS+ADHD groups.
- No association between the severity of comorbidity and educational level.

Longitudinal

A high vocal tic score at the first examination was associated with not having passed lower secondary school at follow-up in the TS-only group.

Severe ADHD or severe OCD at first examination was associated with not having passed lower secondary school and high school at follow-up.

