

TOURETTE SYNDROME

PART 1



Tourette syndrome causes the person to make sudden, involuntary movements and sounds, known as **tics**.

The severity can vary from person to person but things such as stress, anxiety and tiredness can aggravate the symptoms.

Multiple motor and multiple vocal tics may be present at some time, though not necessarily both at the same time.

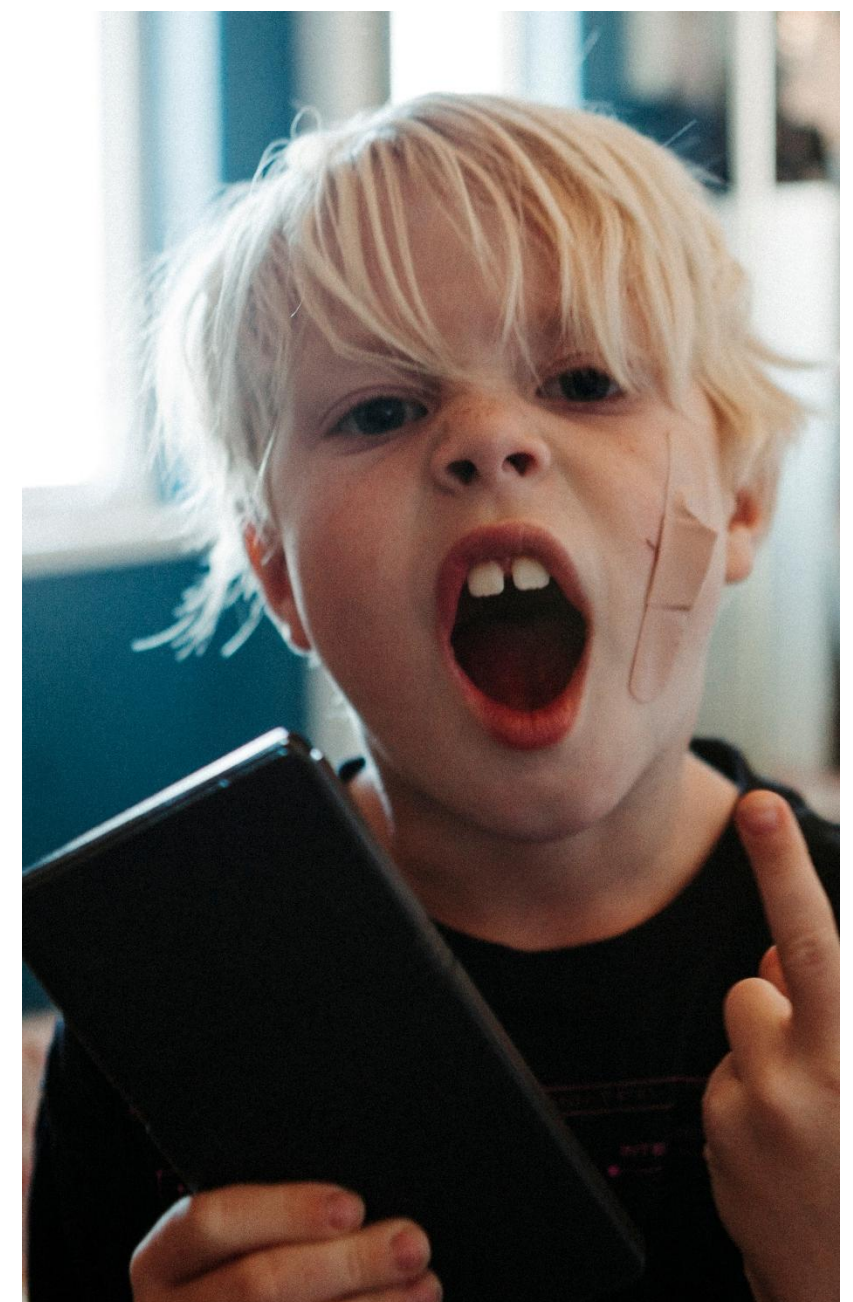
The frequency may have varied, but have persisted for at least one year for a diagnosis and are not the physiological result of substance or a medical condition.

Key Facts

Tourette Syndrome and other Tic Disorders are not rare. The current estimates are that 1 out of every 160 children between the ages of 5-17 years in the United States has TS and that 1 out of every 50 children has TS or another persistent Tic Disorder.

Some Tic Disorders may lessen in severity during adolescence, while others will persist into adolescence and adulthood. It is common for people with Tourette Syndrome to be affected by a co-occurring condition. According to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, 5 in 6 children with TS have another mental, behavioural, or developmental disorder. Some co-occurring conditions are attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). There is no cure for Tourette Syndrome, but thanks to years of dedicated research, there are a variety of treatment options.

- **Tourette's (TS) is not...**
 - contagious, it's Genetic.
 - bad behaviour or mental illness, it's neurological.
 - done on purpose, tics are involuntary.
 - related to levels of intelligence.
- **1% of children have TS.**
- **Tourette's is not just swearing.** Less than 10% of people with Tourette's have this symptom.
- **70%, Approximately 2/3 of people with TS have a reduction of their symptoms as they age.**
- **Boys are more likely to be diagnosed than girls 3 to 4 times.**



Source: The Tourette Syndrome Association of Australia Inc.