
I'M NOT DRUNK!
I have Huntington's Disease!
WeHaveAFace
Educate!
WeHaveAFace.org/hd-jhd

## What is Huntington's Disease?

Huntington's Disease (gene found in 1993), is a hereditary, degenerative, and terminal brain disease for which there is no cure.
Huntington's disease is caused by a genetic mutation on chromosome 4. Huntington's disease abbreviated—HD, or Juvenile Huntington's disease — JHD is an autosomal dominant disease. This means that only one parent must have the mutated gene for a child to inherit the disease. Every child of a person with Huntington's disease has a 50/50 chance of inheriting the fatal gene. Huntington's does not skip generations. This disease slowly diminishes the individual's ability to walk, move, talk, and reason. In the end, the person with HD relies completely upon others for their personal care.

HD affects the lives of entire families — socially, psychologically, and economically. HD affects males and females and knows no ethnic or racial boundaries. Many of us within the international community describe the symptoms of JHD/HD as having, ALS, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, Dementia, Bipolar disorder, and Schizophrenia — all at the same time. Simply, Huntington's disease is more than a physical disease. Often, the individual with HD might seem to be (or act) "drunk" to the on-looker, due to the physical attributes of the disease.

## Don't be afraid to ask!

Sadly, many people with disabilities and genetic diseases are often treated negatively when out in the community. Due to the physical symptoms this disease known as (chorea), patients express involuntary movements of eyes, fingers, hands, limbs, legs, feet, and head. Never be afraid to talk to a patient and caregiver. It's better to have a conversation and help educate others within your community!

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## What is Juvenile Huntington's Disease?

Juvenile Huntington's disease (JHD) affects children before the age of twenty. Upwards of 10 percent of known cases of Huntington's disease is the Juvenile form. Individuals who suffer with JHD experience seizures and many other horrific attributes of this disease earlier in life. Diagnosis of JHD usually happens with symptoms manifest before the age of twenty, and in many cases is often delayed by false diagnoses such as ADHD.
Symptoms of Juvenile Huntington's Disease
The onset and progression of Huntington's disease in younger people is different from that in adults.

Stiffness of arms and legs
Clumsiness of arms and legs
Slowness in movements (bradykinesia)
Decline in cognitive functions (learning ability)
Changes with behavior
Seizures may occur
Speech / Communication problems
Obsessive compulsive behaviors
....and so much more!

Sadly, the current testing process (genetic blood test) for JHD is too difficult. Why? The debate among medical professionals is that many youths may have ADHD, depression, juvenile variations of bipolar disorder, mild cerebral palsy, seizure disorders, thyroid disease, and not JHD.