

General Movements Assessment – Interpreting the results

MOTOR DYSFUNCTION



Severity

Repeated assessment throughout both the 'writhing' and 'fidgety' stages of General Movements (GMs) assists in prediction of later motor severity of cerebral palsy.¹

The relationship and time of appearance of 'cramped synchronised' GMs predicts the degree of later functional impairment with the earlier the appearance, the more severe the functional impairment as classified by the Gross Motor Function Classification System².



Unilateral cerebral palsy

Unilateral cerebral palsy may typically show abnormal GMs, usually 'poor repertoire' or 'cramped synchronised' in their first weeks of life followed by 'absent fidgety' at 12–14 weeks post-term age. At the age of 2–4 months the first asymmetries can be observed in the distal segmental movements, reduced or absent on the contralateral side of the lesion^{4,5}.



Dyskinetic cerebral palsy

Typically 'poor repertoire' in the 'writhing' period, moving arms in circular movements and spreading their fingers. These movements are present until 5 months, are unilateral or bilateral and monotonous, slow forward rotations starting at the shoulder. From 3–5 months 'fidgety' movements and movements towards the midline e.g. foot to foot were absent⁶.

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