



Essential Tremor (ET)

Imaging the ET brain

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The idea that every patient is unique is engrained into the heads of physicians-in-training. At some point, however, reality sets in and doctors begin to understand how little they really know about the body. Patients may then start to be seen as a group of people with a particular ailment. People with essential tremor (ET) are very familiar with this dilemma and the resulting “one-size fits all” practice of medicine.

- “Why does my right hand shake more than my left?”
- “Why do I have voice tremors, while my mom has hand tremors?”
- “Why does medication X work for my friend, but not for me?”

These questions and many more encompass the frustrations and limited understanding that patients and physicians have of this entity called ET.

There is hope. Funded initially by the IETF and then subsequently by the National Institutes of Health, a study currently under way at the University of Miami is focused on starting to answer some of these questions.

In particular, investigators will be using various advanced MRI techniques to compare both the structure and function of ET brains to those without ET. This will help provide answers that may help explain why people have different tremor types or severities, why people have different responses to particular medications, and what role genetics has on the brain.

The study needs participants with ET and healthy volunteers. Study participation requires two or three study visits in Miami, Fla., where individuals will complete a screening visit and two research MRIs. If you are interested and would like additional information, please call 305.243.5827.

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Our Mission:

The IETF funds research to find the cause of essential tremor (ET) that leads to treatments and a cure, increases awareness, and provides educational materials, tools, and support for healthcare providers, the public, and those affected by ET.