

REVIEWED**By Chris at 9:36 am, Jul 29, 2020****ataxia** (*ə-tak'se-ə*)  ([mp3/9861.mp3](#)) [Gr., from *a*⁻¹ + *taxis* order]

failure of muscular coordination; irregularity of muscular action. Cf. [asynergy](#) ([def.jsp?id=100009837](#)) and [dystaxia](#) ([def.jsp?id=100009888](#)), ataxia of sudden onset.

acute cerebellar ataxia, a usually unilateral type of [cerebellar ataxia](#) ([def.jsp?id=100009868](#)) that may be associated with infection or trauma, and results in marked hypotonia of muscles on the affected side, with asynergy and assumption of a characteristic **Brunns frontal ataxia**, [gait apraxia](#) ([def.jsp?id=118798386](#)).

cerebellar ataxia, ataxia due to disease of the cerebellum. See also [acute cerebellar a.](#) ([def.jsp?id=100009863](#)) and [spinocerebellar ataxia](#) ([def.jsp?id=100009888](#)).

cerebral ataxia, ataxia due to disease of the cerebrum.

childhood ataxia with central nervous system hypomyelination, [vanishing white matter disease](#) ([def.jsp?id=118828607](#)).

enzootic ataxia, congenital ataxia of lambs, with cerebral demyelination, sometimes proceeding to paralysis, blindness, and death thought to be a copper deficiency. Called also [swayback](#) ([def.jsp?id=100103379](#)).

episodic ataxia, either of two autosomal dominant syndromes characterized by transient episodes of ataxia. Type 1 is caused by a mutation in the potassium channel gene on chromosome 12p13, and is characterized by tetanic contractions between the attacks of ataxia. Type 2 is caused by a mutation in the calcium channel gene on chromosome 19p and is characterized by cerebellar abnormalities.

equine sensory ataxia, [wobbler syndrome](#) ([def.jsp?id=200017622](#)) (def. 2).

feline ataxia, [panleukopenia](#) ([def.jsp?id=100077789](#)).

Friedreich ataxia, an autosomal recessive disorder, usually beginning before adolescence, with sclerosis of the posterior and lateral horns of the spinal cord. It is attended by ataxia, speech impairment, lateral curvature of the vertebral column, and peculiar swaying and irregular gait. It is often associated with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. It is a triplet repeat disorder associated with amplification of a GAA triplet repeat sequence in the first intron of the FXN gene (It encodes frataxin. Called also [hereditary a.](#) ([def.jsp?id=100009875](#))).

frontal ataxia, **gait ataxia**, [gait apraxia](#) ([def.jsp?id=118798386](#)).

gluten ataxia, cerebellar ataxia owing to brain damage complicating celiac disease.

hereditary ataxia, [Friedreich a.](#) ([def.jsp?id=100009873](#)) an autosomal recessive disease of fox terrier and Jack Russell terrier. Demyelination of the ventromedial and dorsolateral columns of the spinal cord begins before age 6 months and progresses so that affected animals cannot walk.

hysterical ataxia, ataxia that is part of a [conversion disorder](#) ([def.jsp?id=100031616](#)); see also [astasia-abasia](#) ([def.jsp?id=100009883](#)).

intrapsychic ataxia, the separation of ideas and affect seen in schizophrenic disorders; inappropriateness of affect.

kinetic ataxia, [motor a.](#) ([def.jsp?id=100009883](#))

limb ataxia, ataxia limited to the lower limbs, usually owing to a cerebellar lesion.

locomotor ataxia, [tabes dorsalis](#) ([def.jsp?id=100105441](#)).

motor ataxia, inability to coordinate the movements of the muscles; called also [kinetic a.](#) ([def.jsp?id=100009878](#))

ocular ataxia, [nystagmus](#) ([def.jsp?id=100073996](#)).

proprioceptive ataxia, **sensory ataxia**, ataxia due to loss of joint position sense, characterized by poorly judged movements, and Romberg sign; the incoordination becomes aggravated when the eyes are closed.

spinal ataxia, ataxia due to disease of the spinal cord.

spinocerebellar ataxia, any of a group of hereditary disorders, some of autosomal dominant and others of autosomal recessive inheritance, characterized by progressive degeneration of the cerebellum, brainstem, spinal cord, peripheral nerves, and sometimes other organs. The autosomal dominant disorders are [ataxia-telangiectasia](#) ([def.jsp?id=118819675](#)); in most, expansion of a CAG [triplet repeat](#) ([def.jsp?id=118774404](#)) leads to large [polyglutamine](#) ([def.jsp?id=118819675](#)) in the affected protein, although the disorders differ in many other details, such as the gene affected and the threshold for clinical expression.

ataxia-telangiectasia, an autosomal recessive disorder caused by mutations in the ATM gene (locus: 11q22.3), which is involved in many biological functions, including DNA repair and cell cycle control. It is characterized by cerebellar ataxia and nystagmus, oculocutaneous telangiectasia, variable degrees of humoral and cellular immunodeficiency, recurrent bacterial infections of the respiratory tract from sinuses to lungs, and increased incidence of lymphoreticular malignancies. There is an increased sensitivity to ionizing radiation. Gonadal hypoplasia, hyperglycemia, liver function abnormalities, and elevated levels of alpha-fetoprotein and carcinoembryonic antigen are also seen. Called also [Louis-Bar syndrome](#) ([def.jsp?id=100104411](#)).

thermal ataxia, ataxia accompanied by great and paradoxical fluctuations of the temperature of the body.

truncal ataxia, ataxia affecting the muscles of the trunk.

vestibular ataxia, ataxia with vertigo, nystagmus, nausea, and vomiting, caused by a lesion in the brainstem, vestibular nuclei, or vestibular nerve.

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