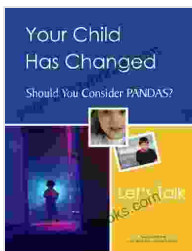


Your Child Has Changed: Should You Consider PANDAS?

If you're the parent of a child who has experienced a sudden and dramatic change in behavior, you may be wondering if PANDAS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections) could be the cause.

PANDAS is a relatively new condition that is characterized by the sudden onset of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), tics, and/or anxiety following a streptococcal infection, such as strep throat or scarlet fever.



Your Child Has Changed; Should You Consider PANDAS?: Let's Talk by Sheila Rogers DeMare

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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File size : 748 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 55 pages
Lending : Enabled



The symptoms of PANDAS can be severe and debilitating, and can have a significant impact on a child's life. In some cases, the symptoms may even

be mistaken for a mental health disorder, such as autism or bipolar disorder.

If you're concerned that your child may have PANDAS, it's important to see a doctor right away. Early diagnosis and treatment is essential to improving the chances of a full recovery.

What Causes PANDAS?

The exact cause of PANDAS is unknown, but it is thought to be related to an autoimmune reaction. When a person with PANDAS is infected with a streptococcal bacteria, their immune system overreacts and produces antibodies that attack the brain. These antibodies can damage the brain's basal ganglia, which is a region of the brain that is responsible for controlling movement, behavior, and emotions.

What Are the Symptoms of PANDAS?

The symptoms of PANDAS can vary from child to child, but they typically include:

- Sudden onset of OCD, tics, and/or anxiety
- Increased irritability and aggression
- Difficulty concentrating
- Sleep problems
- Bedwetting
- Regression in developmental skills

In some cases, the symptoms of PANDAS may also include more severe psychiatric symptoms, such as hallucinations and delusions.

How Is PANDAS Diagnosed?

There is no single test that can diagnose PANDAS. However, a doctor may suspect PANDAS if your child has the following:

- A sudden onset of OCD, tics, and/or anxiety
- A recent streptococcal infection
- Other symptoms of PANDAS, such as increased irritability, aggression, or difficulty concentrating

To confirm a diagnosis of PANDAS, your doctor may Free Download blood tests to look for antibodies to streptococcal bacteria. They may also Free Download an MRI scan of the brain to look for signs of damage to the basal ganglia.

How Is PANDAS Treated?

The treatment for PANDAS typically involves a combination of antibiotics to treat the streptococcal infection and medication to manage the symptoms. In some cases, behavioral therapy may also be helpful.

The goal of treatment is to reduce the symptoms of PANDAS and improve the child's quality of life. In most cases, the symptoms of PANDAS will improve over time with treatment. However, some children may continue to experience symptoms for a longer period of time.

What Is the Prognosis for PANDAS?

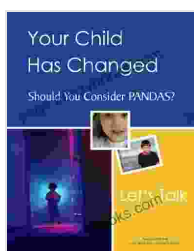
The prognosis for PANDAS is generally good. With early diagnosis and treatment, most children will experience a full recovery. However, some children may continue to experience symptoms for a longer period of time.

If your child is diagnosed with PANDAS, it's important to work closely with your doctor to develop a treatment plan that is right for your child. With the right treatment, your child can learn to manage their symptoms and live a full and happy life.

Additional Resources

For more information about PANDAS, please visit the following websites:

- PANDAS Network
- National Institute of Mental Health
- Mayo Clinic



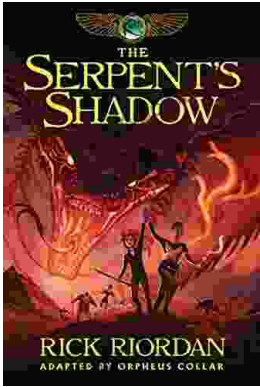
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