

FROM: PSYCHIATRY OF INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY
A PRACTICAL MANUAL
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Table 1 Behavioral presentations commonly associated with medical conditions in the patient with intellectual disabilities.

Fist jammed in mouth	Gastroesophageal reflux disease, eruption of teeth, asthma, rumination, nausea, anxiety, painful hands/paresthesia and gout.
Biting side of hand	Sinus problems, eustachian tubes, ear problems, eruption of wisdom teeth, dental problems, pain or paresthesia in hands.
Whipping head forward	Atlantoaxial subluxation, other syndromes with joint laxity, dental problems, headaches.
Intense rocking	Visceral pain, headache, depression, anxiety, medication side effects.
Head-banging	Depression, headache, dental problems, seizure, otitis, mastoiditis, sinus problems, tinea capitis.
All behavior problems (most common cause)	Pain, medication side effects, sleep disorders, psychiatric illness.
Waving head side to side	Attempts to supplement visual field, vertigo, hypervigilance, headache syndrome, vitreous humor.
Walking on toes	Arthritis and hips or ankles or knees, tight heel cords.
Won't sit	Akathisia, anxiety, depression, back pain, other pain, sleep deprivation.
Sudden sitting down	Heart problems, syncope, orthostasis, medication side effects, vertigo, otitis, atlantoaxial instability, seizures, panic.
Waving fingers in front of eyes	Migraine, corneal scarring, cataracts, seizures, glaucoma, diplopia, medication side effects.
Wears multiple layers of clothing	Rule out endocrine and medication problems, post-institutional behavior.
Covers eyes or ears	Consider psychosis, expression of hypersensitivity, preferences or fears, pain or depression.
Places unusual wrappings on ankles, wrists, or other openings	Post-institutional coping, temperature regulation, or sensory integration issues.
Glares with hostility at previously liked others or strangers	Rage or paranoia secondary to abuse or trauma history, psychosis.
Wears costumes	Psychosis, expressing a wish or a fact from past or present.
Brushes unseen material off body	Psychosis, dissociative, or neuropathy.
Biting thumb or object with front teeth (or thumb sucking or bruxism)	Sinus problems, eustachian tube, ear problems, finger pain, paresthesias, gout.
Refuses to sit evenly or at all	Hip pain, low back pain, genital or rectal discomfort, ongoing abuse, clue to past abuse.
Unpleasurable masturbation	Prostatitis, urinary tract or genital infection, rectal injury or infection, peer acidic infection, syphilis, repetition phenomenon, i.e. past abuse, never learned pleasurable masturbation.
Odd food refusals, (e.g. cravings or combinations, unusual aroma), family history of miscarriages or dysmorphic features of developmental disability	Serum and urine amino acids, organic acids, and mucopolysaccharides, very long chain fatty acids, ammonia, lactate, pyruvate, white cell enzymes.
Spells which are not generalized tonic clonic seizures.	Most are related to anxiety disorders or tic disorders; however if the usual treatment is not successful consider testing for cardiac events or unusual metabolic conditions such as porphyria or G6PD deficiency.
Intermittent fatigue	Multiple sclerosis, chronic viral infections, serum protein electrophoresis, lactate, pyruvate, comprehensive metabolic panel, glucose tolerance test, calcium, carnitine, B vitamins, iron levels.
Ataxia	Atlantoaxial subluxation, heavy metals, fatigue list
Joint swelling	ANA, rheumatoid factor, ESR, TB, syphilis screening.
Partial seizures	B1, B2, B6, B12, folate, niacin, pantothenic acid, titanic acid.
Snoring, history of airway obstruction or history of brain injury	Sleep apnea, hypopnea, hypoxemia, or seizures.
Flushing, rash, or other autonomic instability	Pheochromocytoma, carcinoid syndrome, porphyria, G6PD deficiency, autoimmune disorders, lime, TB, syphilis, viral including HTV.