

CINCH Genetic Database of Neuromuscular Channelopathies

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Neurologic channelopathies are caused by a genetic mutation that affects the function of ion channels in cell membranes. Andersen Tawil syndrome, the non-dystrophic myotonias, and the episodic ataxias are characterized by episodes of muscle weakness, stiffness, and/or incoordination. **CINCH** (Clinical Investigation of Neurologic Channelopathies) is a collaborative effort of doctors, patient organizations, and federal health agencies that want to learn more about these diseases so that ultimately they can offer better treatments to patients. Participating clinical centers are Kansas University Medical Center; The University of Rochester Medical Center; David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA; Brigham and Women's Hospital; Department of Neurology, UCSF; University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas; University of Utah School of Medicine; London Health Sciences Centre, Ontario, Canada; Institute of Neurology & National Hospital for Neurology, London UK; and affiliated sites Department of Neurology at the Università degli Studi di Milano and Zhejiang University School of Medicine First Affiliated Hospital, Hangzhou, China. CINCH aims to collect and provide information about: 1) Data which will be gathered as part of studies to find out more about the symptoms and genetic course of these rare diseases; 2) Explanations of the symptoms and genetic causes of the diseases for patients, their families and physicians; 3) Links to organizations that may be of help to the patients and their families.