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Dance-like Movement of an Attempted Murderer? A Case Report

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Huntington's disease (HD) is a rare, fatal inherited disorder that results from excessive repetition of the trinucleotide sequence CAG (cytosine-adenine-guanine) in the Huntington's disease gene on the short arm of Chromosome 4. Huntington's disease is characterized by the triad of symptoms: motor, cognitive, and psychiatric disturbances. Among them, the motor disturbance includes chorea, slurred speech, problems with balance, and dysphagia. Because forensic evaluators are highly likely to encounter the malingering, they must keep in mind the possibility of malingering and/or minimization or exaggeration of symptoms. If the evaluators does not thoroughly assess because of excessive preconceptions, the likelihood of misdiagnosis might be increased. The author will describe a 48-years old woman who attempted murder and manifested chorea in all limbs, dysarthria, and dysphagia, and discuss a diagnostic process of the case with HD.

Keywords: Huntington's disease.