



Ataxia is a rare neurological disease. It gets worse over time – affecting a person’s ability to walk, talk, and use fine motor skills. It can be fatal. Some types of Ataxia are hereditary.

Ataxia Symptoms

Many symptoms of Ataxia can mimic those of being drunk, such as slurred speech, stumbling, falling, and lack of coordination. All of these are related to degeneration of the part of the brain called the cerebellum.

Symptoms vary by person and type of Ataxia. Symptom onset and progression vary as well. They may begin in childhood through late adulthood. Symptoms may be slow progressing, over decades – or fast, over mere months. They often result in the need for a walker or wheelchair.

Diagnosis

Ataxia is diagnosed using a combination of strategies that may include medical history, family history, and complete neurological evaluation. Genetic tests are available for some types of hereditary Ataxia.

Treatment

Treating Ataxia requires an individual approach. Speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy are all common options. They are sometimes used in conjunction with medication to help manage symptoms. There is no cure, but there is exciting progress being made with Ataxia research and clinical trials.

A.tax.i.a (noun)

[uh-tak-see-uh]

a rare brain disease that affects balance, coordination, and speech.



National Ataxia Foundation

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CONNECT WITH US



Connecting Ataxia families, researchers, clinicians and the community

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WORKING TO CURE ATAXIA

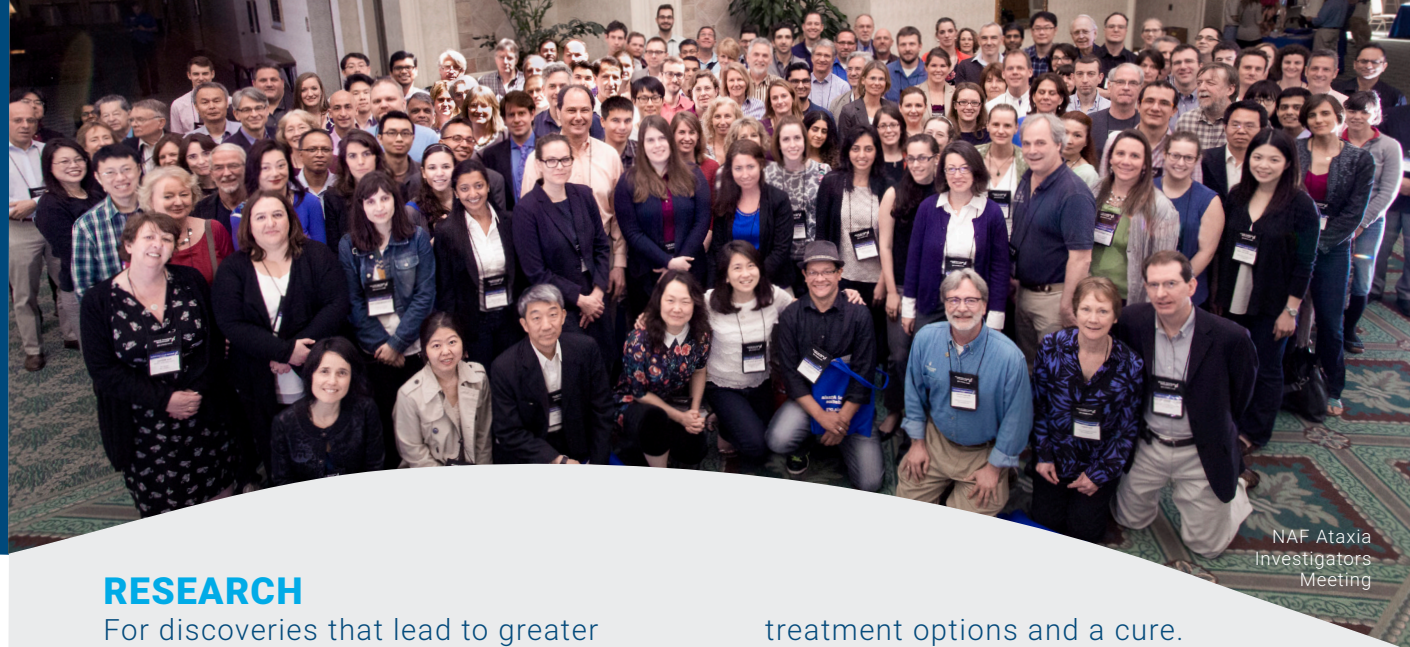
NAF is at the forefront of the search for a cure for Ataxia – and has been for more than 60 years.

AWARENESS

The first stage towards a cure is awareness about the disease. NAF works to educate the general public and the medical community about Ataxia. Using various outreach tactics, NAF continues to provide the latest in Ataxia education.

SUPPORT

NAF understands that living with a rare disease is hard. We coordinate support groups across the country to help people with Ataxia connect with and support one another. We also maintain the only comprehensive list of Ataxia clinics and neurologists in the country.



NAF Ataxia Investigators Meeting

RESEARCH

For discoveries that lead to greater understanding of Ataxia – NAF is there – providing support and funding to the world's greatest Ataxia scientists. We continue to collaborate with the top researchers – looking for better

treatment options and a cure. NAF is the only foundation in the U.S. that is dedicated to funding research for all types of hereditary Ataxia. We will continue to do so until we find a cure for Ataxia.

