

## **Primary Versus Secondary Motor Stereotypies**

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**Introduction:** Stereotypies are involuntary repetitive and rhythmic movements and can be defined as either primary or secondary. Primary stereotypies are seen in typically developing (TD) children whereas secondary stereotypies are associated with some other developmental disorder, such as autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Primary stereotypies are generally viewed as a movement disorder due to the absence of other neurological symptoms, while secondary stereotypies have been hypothesized to represent self-stimulatory behaviors performed by the individual to get some sort of sensory satisfaction. However, many patients report that they are unaware of their stereotypies until attention is brought to them, suggesting they are not self-stimulatory and instead purposeless. This study aims to characterize differences between primary and secondary stereotypies.

**Materials and Methods:** Survey data were collected and analyzed to evaluate the occurrence of stereotypies and associated characteristics, such as the settings, deliberate mimicking of the

Attention Task, a Toy Task to measure  
ive toys that tend to eventuate