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Author: Caroline Barakat-Haddad Sabina Shin Hamilton  
Candundo Pascal Van Lieshout Rosemary Martino



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## **A Systematic Review of Risk Factors associated with Muscular Dystrophies**

Shortened Title: *Risk Factors associated with Muscular Dystrophies*

Caroline Barakat-Haddad<sup>1</sup>, Sabina Shin<sup>1,2</sup>, Hamilton Candundo<sup>1</sup>, Pascal Van Lieshout<sup>3,5,6,7,8</sup>, Rosemary Martino<sup>3,4,7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Ontario Institute of Technology; <sup>2</sup>Department of Pediatrics, McMaster University; <sup>3</sup>Department of Speech-Language Pathology, University of Toronto; <sup>4</sup>Health Care and Outcomes Research, Toronto Western Research Institute, University Health Network; <sup>5</sup>Department of Psychology, University of Toronto; <sup>6</sup>Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering, University of Toronto; <sup>7</sup>Graduate Department of Rehabilitation Science, University of Toronto; <sup>8</sup>Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, University Health Network

\*Address Correspondence to: Dr. Caroline Barakat-Haddad,  
Faculty of Health Sciences  
University of Ontario Institute of Technology  
2000 Simcoe Street North, Oshawa, ON L1H 7K4, Canada  
Tel: 905 721 2000 ext. 2173  
Fax: 905 721 3179, Email:  
[Caroline.Barakat-Haddad@uoit.ca](mailto:Caroline.Barakat-Haddad@uoit.ca)

## **Highlights**

- Muscular Dystrophy (MD) is a group of neuromuscular disorders causing progressive weakness and loss of muscle mass. In muscular dystrophy, abnormal genes (mutations) interfere with the production of proteins needed to form healthy muscle.
- The most common form is Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) - symptoms of DMD begin in childhood, primarily in boys. Other types such as Becker Muscular Dystrophy (BMD), Facioscapulohumeral Muscular Dystrophy (FSHD), and Emery-Dreifuss Muscular Dystrophy (EDMD) don't surface until adulthood.
- Genetic risk factors are known to affect the onset and progression of MD.

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