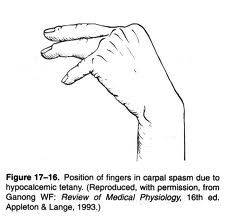
Complications

According to the Mayo Clinic (2013), there are numerous complications that can that can coexist with hypoparathyroidism. These complications are divided into two categories: reversible conditions and irreversible conditions.

Reversible complications generally develop as a result of low calcium levels (hypocalcemia) and can be corrected with medical treatment. The Mayo Clinic (2013) lists six reversible complications:

1. **Tetany** – a manifestation of an abnormal calcium metabolism; it is characterized by cramps, convulsions, spasms and twitching of muscles throughout the face, arms, and possibly throat (*Mosby’s Dictionary of Medicine, Nursing & Health Professions*, 2009).

****

1. **Paresthesias –** a sensation described as numbness and tingling or a “pins and needles” feeling. It can occur within any part of the body, but it is most commonly felt within the extremities (*Mosby’s Dictionary of Medicine, Nursing & Health Professions*, 2009).

****

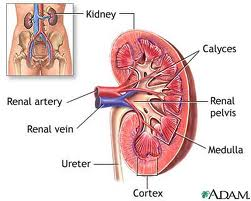
1. **Loss of consciousness with convulsions –** often noted as tonic-clonic or “grand mal” seizures; characterized by involuntary muscle contractions with simultaneous respiratory cessation (breathing normally resumes after the convulsions stop) (*Mosby’s Dictionary of Medicine, Nursing & Health Professions*, 2009).

****

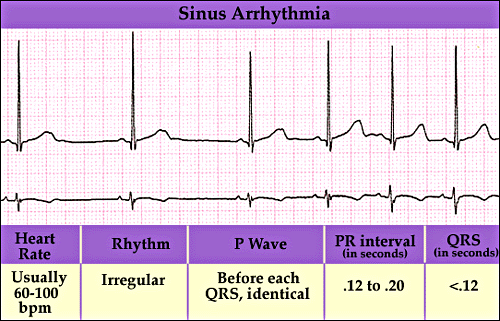
1. **Malformation of the teeth –** this affects their shape and size.

****

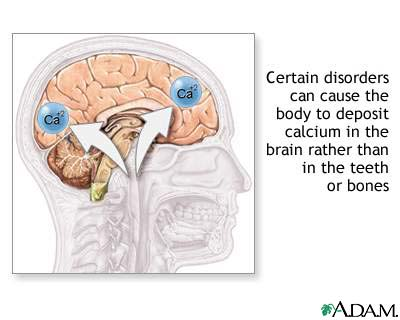
1. **Impaired kidney function**

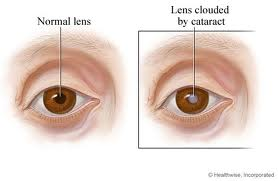
****

1. **Heart arrythmias**

****

Irreversible complications associated with hypoparathyroidism will not improve with the calcium and vitamin D treatment these patients receive:

1. **Stunted growth** (short stature)
2. **Slow mental development in children**
3. **Calcium deposits in the brain**
4. **Cataracts**

****