

Tardive Dyskinesia



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What is tardive dyskinesia?

Tardive dyskinesia (TD) is a side effect of antipsychotic medications. TD is a movement disorder that occurs over months, years and even decades. TD is characterized by random movements of different muscles within the body. Most people who develop TD will find that it is mild and goes away. The number of patients who develop severe or irreversible TD is quite low. Sometimes, TD can be disabling.

Who is at risk for developing tardive dyskinesia?

It is very difficult to determine what the risk of developing TD might be. Some common risk factors for developing TD are:

- Treatment length, such as antipsychotic treatment for longer
- Exposure, such as to dangerous antipsychotics
- Age, those who are older may be more likely to develop TD.
- Substance Abuse, such as with alcohol or other drugs may cause TD.

Treatments

Because the best treatment for TD is prevention, individuals who are taking medications should see their doctor regularly for tests. Unfortunately, there is no medication that can cure TD. Several different medications have been studied, but it remains unclear whether any can prevent or treat TD.

People who are developing the signs and symptoms of TD, should talk with their doctor right away. They may recommend:

- Taking less of the medication
- Switching to a different medication

