



Spasmodic Torticollis a/k/a Cervical Dystonia is a neurological disorder affecting the muscles of the neck which cause the head to be pulled either sideways, downwards or backwards. Pain is frequent and can be severe. In some cases tremors of the head can accompany these basic symptoms.

ST/Dystonia has been devoted toward helping people with spasmodic torticollis (ST) since 1989. The money we raise through building membership, donations and fundraising efforts provides incredible benefits for those in need and bolsters our efforts toward researching better techniques to improve the lives of all ST'rs.

Join, Renew or Donate today! We survive on your participation. For more information on how you can help us and we can help you, go to our website at www.stdystonia.org or call us at **888-445-4588**. Thank you so much for your support!



Providing HOPE for
your future.

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Oral Meds

Information Guide

SPASMODIC TORTICOLLIS
a.k.a.
CERVICAL DYSTONIA



Dystonia and Various Medications

Dr. James Auberle, M.D., Neurologist

The medical community has speculated for a number of years that a variety of medications pose as potential triggers for dystonia. It is not entirely clear if the acute forms of dystonic reactions will predispose to the more chronic conditions. The following list of medications has in some way been implicated in the various forms of dystonia. Some of these medications can precipitate an acute form of dystonia while others may cause a more chronic development of subtle degrees of dystonia.

It also seems to be important to point out that many thousands of individuals take these medications without the development of dystonia. This is a relative list of meds that may not always be avoided in absolute terms. For

example, if someone suffers from dystonia and also suffers from seizures, then the seizure medications may be the only meds that may control the seizures and the issues of dystonia may need to be dealt with separately. Therefore, the list needs to be considered in relative terms to the severity of the problems being addressed. These meds should be used with caution. The rule that one should "Start low and go slow" with these meds holds true, but in addition, it is good common sense. It is also true that this group of meds should be discontinued or stopped in the same slow tapering fashion that they may have been increased.

This is not intended to be a complete list of medications and toxic compounds that have been associated with dystonia, but it is a place from which to start searching.

GENERIC NAMES	TRADE NAMES
THERAPEUTIC AGENTS	
5-ht Stimulating Agents	
Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors <i>(used to treat depression)</i>	
Citalopram	Celexa
Escitalopram	Lexapro
Fluoxetine	Prozac
Fluvoxamine	Luvox
Paroxetine	Paxil
Sertraline	Zoloft
Trazadone	Desyrel

GENERIC NAMES	TRADE NAMES
Acetylcholinesterases <i>(used for myasthenia, neuro-cardiogenic syncope, and some memory problems)</i>	
Neostigmine	Prostigmin
Physostigmine	
Pyridostigmine	Mestinon
Anesthetics <i>(used in operating room)</i>	
(multiple)	

GENERIC NAMES	TRADE NAMES
Anti-Epileptic drugs <i>(used for seizures)</i>	
Carbamazepine	Tegretol
Phenytoin	Dilantin
Phenobarbital	
Gabapentin <i>(also used as a pain med)</i>	Neurontin
Tiagabine	Gabitril

Anti-Histamines	
Diphenhydramine	Benedryl

Anxiolytics	
Alprazolam	Xanax
Midazolam	Versed
Diazepam	Valium

Catecholamine Stimulating	
L-Dopa <i>(used for Parkinson's disease)</i>	Sinemet
Dopamine Agonists	
Pramipexole	Mirapex
Ropinirole	Requip
Cocaine	
Catecholamine Releasers	
Buspiron	Buspar

GENERIC NAMES	TRADE NAMES
Catecholamine Stimulating <i>(continued)</i>	
Tricyclic Antidepressants	
Amitriptyline	Elavil
Amoxapine	Asendin
Clomipramine	Anafranil
Desipramine	Norpramin
Doxepin	Sinequan
Imipramine	Tofranil
Nortriptyline	Pamelor
Protriptyline	Vivactil
Trimipramine	Surmontil
Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors	
Isocarboxazid	Marplan
Linezolid	Zyvox
Phenelzine	Nardil
Ergotamine <i>(used for migraine)</i>	Cafergot

Dopamine Receptor Blockers <i>(used for psychosis)</i>	
Classic neuroleptic	
Chlorpromazine	Thorazine
Prochlorperazine	Compazine
Droperidol	Inapsine
Fluphenazine	Prolixin
Haloperidol	Haldol
Loxapine	Loxitane

GENERIC NAMES	TRADE NAMES
Dopamine Receptor Blockers <i>(continued)</i>	
Perphenazine	Trilafon
Pimozide	Orap
Promethazine	Phenergan
Thioridazine	Mellaril
Thiothixene	Navane
Trifluoperazine	Stelazine
Atypical Neuroleptics	
Aripiprazole	Abilify
Clozapine	Clozaril
Olanzapine	Zyrex
Risperidone	Risperdal
Quetiapine	Seroquel
Ziprasidone	Geodon

Catecholamine Depletors	
Reserpine	
Tetrabenazine	Xenazine

Miscellaneous	
5-Fluorouracil <i>(cancer med)</i>	
Chloroquine	
Cimetidine <i>(GI med)</i>	Tagamet
Disulfiram <i>(used for alcoholism)</i>	Antabuse
Doxorubicin	Adriamycin

GENERIC NAMES	TRADE NAMES
Miscellaneous <i>(continued)</i>	
Erythromycin <i>(antibiotic)</i>	
Flecainide <i>(arrhythmia/cardiac med)</i>	Tambocor
Lithium <i>(used for bipolar depression)</i>	Eskalith, Lithobid
Meperidine <i>(pain medication)</i>	Demerol
Metoclopramide <i>(GI med)</i>	Reglan
Ranitidine <i>(GI med)</i>	Zantac
Sumatriptan <i>(used for migraine)</i>	Imitrex
Verapamil <i>(arrhythmia/cardiac med)</i>	Calan

NEUROTOXIC CHEMICALS
Methyl Alcohol
Cyanide
Carbon monoxide
Carbon disulfide