



**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](http://www.stdystonia.org) or call us at **888-445-4588**. Thank you so much for your support!



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your future.

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# Oral Meds

## Information Guide

SPASMODIC TORTICOLLIS  
a.k.a.  
CERVICAL DYSTONIA



# Dystonia and Various Medications

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

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

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

| <b>Anti-Histamines</b> |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Diphenhydramine        | Benedryl |

| <b>Anxiolytics</b> |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Alprazolam         | Xanax  |
| Midazolam          | Versed |
| Diazepam           | Valium |

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

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

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

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

| <b>Catecholamine Depletors</b> |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Reserpine                      |          |
| Tetrabenazine                  | Xenazine |

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

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

| <b>NEUROTOXIC CHEMICALS</b> |
|-----------------------------|
| Methyl Alcohol              |
| Cyanide                     |
| Carbon monoxide             |
| Carbon disulfide            |