

Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week

Tardive dyskinesia (TD) affects approximately 600,000 people in the United States.^{1,2}

TD is an involuntary movement disorder that is associated with prolonged use of certain mental health medicines (antipsychotics) that are used to treat bipolar disorder, depression, schizophrenia, and/or schizoaffective disorder.^{1,3-5} Other prescription medicines used to treat upset stomach, nausea, and vomiting may also cause TD. TD is characterized by uncontrollable, abnormal, and repetitive movements of the face, torso, and/or other body parts.^{4,5}

**Nearly
70%
of people in the U.S. living
with TD are undiagnosed.⁶**

TD is a chronic condition that is unlikely to improve without treatment.^{1,5} The uncontrollable movements of TD may include:^{3,4}



**Lip puckering
or smacking**



**Tongue darting or
pushing inside of cheek**



**Excessive
blinking**



**Jaw biting, clenching, or
side-to-side movements**



**Twisting hands or
dancing fingers and toes**

These involuntary movements associated with TD can impact patients physically, socially, and emotionally.⁷ It may lead them to experience difficulties with daily activities due to the uncontrolled movements of TD, make them feel embarrassed or judged by others, and/or cause them to withdraw from society and isolate themselves.^{4,7-10}

It is important that people who are taking antipsychotic medication be monitored by a healthcare provider for drug-induced movement disorders (DIMDs), like TD. Screenings should include a physical assessment and visual examination of the body, using a tool like the Abnormal Involuntary Movement Scale (AIMS) exam.¹¹ The American Psychiatric Association 2020 guidelines for the treatment of schizophrenia recommend screening for TD at least once every 6 months in high-risk patients and at least once every 12 months for others at risk of developing TD.¹¹

Despite the number of people impacted by the condition, many people are still unfamiliar with TD. For patients living with TD, their families, and their caregivers, it is important to know that they are not alone.



Survey findings show*:



**1 in 5 believe that TD
cannot be treated[†]**



**52% agree they don't
know much about TD[†]**

*The survey evaluated 51 patients diagnosed with TD and 155 patients who were suspected to have TD, as they experienced involuntary movements.
†Base: Patient ATU 2022. Target patients (n=250). Responses based on survey question: Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements.

In an effort to raise awareness of TD, states are being asked to declare
May 1-7, 2023 as **Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week**.

1 in 5

US adults live with a
mental illness.¹²

May is also Mental Health Awareness Month, and as we work to increase awareness and support for those impacted by mental health conditions, it is important to remember that those living with a mental illness and taking antipsychotics for a prolonged time may develop or already have TD.

Over the past 5 years, and entering the sixth anniversary, **50 states, Washington, DC**, and a broad coalition of mental health advocacy organizations recognized the first week of May as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week.

Learn more about TD, living with TD, and how to treat TD by visiting **TalkAboutTD.com**.

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