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3 MONTHS OF SCHIZOPHRENIA SYMPTOM CONTROL

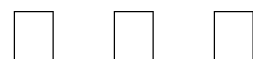
Schizophrenia ▾ Guide ▾



What Is Tardive Dyskinesia?



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Tardive dyskinesia is a side effect of antipsychotic medications. These drugs are used to treat schizophrenia and other mental health disorders.

TD causes stiff, jerky movements of your face and body that you can't control.

You might blink your [eyes](#), stick out your [tongue](#), or wave your arms without meaning to do so.

Not everyone who takes an antipsychotic drug will get it. But if it happens, it's sometimes permanent. So let your doctor know right away if you have movements you can't control. Your doctor may be able to lower the dose or switch you to a different drug to ease your symptoms.

Causes

Antipsychotic meds treat [schizophrenia](#), [bipolar disorder](#), and other [brain](#) conditions. Doctors also call them neuroleptic drugs.

They block a [brain](#) chemical called dopamine. It helps cells talk to each other and makes the muscles move smoothly. When you have too little of it, your movements can become jerky and out of control.

You can get TD if you take an antipsychotic drug, usually for 3 months or more. But there've been rare cases of it after a single dose of an antipsychotic medicine. Older versions of these drugs are more likely to cause these movements than newer ones. Some studies find a similar risk from both types, though.

Older antipsychotics include:

- [Chlorpromazine](#) (Thorazine)
- [Fluphenazine](#) (Prolixin)
- [Haloperidol](#) (Haldol)
- Thioridazine (Mellaril)
- [Trifluoperazine](#) (Stelazine)

Your chances of getting TD go up the longer you take an antipsychotic medicine.

Some drugs that treat [nausea](#), reflux, and other [stomach problems](#) can also cause TD if you take them for more than 3 months. These include:

- [Metoclopramide \(Reglan\)](#)
- [Prochlorperazine \(Compazine\)](#)

You're more likely to get it if you:

- Are a woman who has gone through [menopause](#)
- Are over 55 years old
- Abuse alcohol or drugs
- Are African-American or Asian-American

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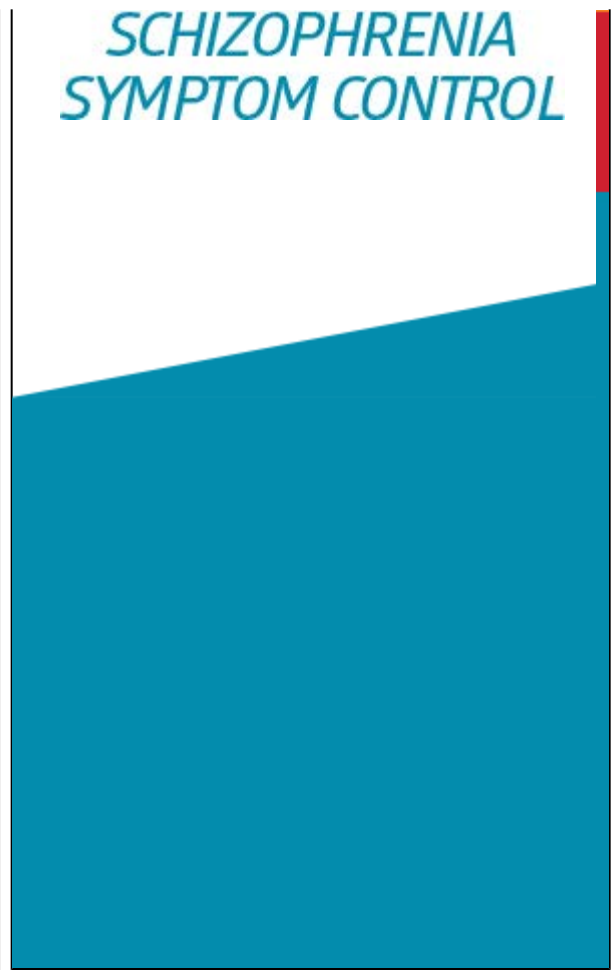


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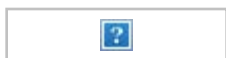
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