

Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week

May 4-10, 2025

Tardive dyskinesia (TD) is estimated to affect at least 800,000 adults in the United States.^{1,2} Of those living with TD, approximately 60% remain undiagnosed.²

- TD is an involuntary movement disorder associated with the use of antipsychotic medication that may be necessary to treat individuals living with mental illnesses such as bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder.^{3,4}
- Certain prescription medicines (metoclopramide and prochlorperazine) used to treat gastrointestinal disorders may also cause TD.^{5,6}
- TD is characterized by uncontrollable movements of the face, torso, limbs and fingers or toes.^{1,4,7,8}

TD is a chronic condition that is unlikely to improve without treatment.^{1,4} The uncontrollable movements of TD may include^{3,7,8}:



Lip smacking, puckering or pursing



Tongue darting or protrusion



Excessive blinking



Jaw chewing, clenching or side-to-side movements



Twisting or dancing fingers and toes

The abnormal, involuntary and repetitive movements of TD can negatively impact people physically, socially and emotionally.⁹ People living with TD may also feel judged and ashamed, adding to a sense of worry, isolation and stigma.⁸⁻¹² Even mild uncontrollable body movements from TD could have emotional and social consequences.⁹

Routine screenings help improve earlier recognition and diagnosis of TD.

People who have taken antipsychotic medication should be monitored by a healthcare provider for drug-induced movement disorders, such as TD.

Routine screenings for abnormal, involuntary and repetitive movements in people taking antipsychotic medication can lead to earlier detection, diagnosis and appropriate management of TD. The American Psychiatric Association 2020 clinical guidelines for the treatment of schizophrenia recommend **screening for TD at least every six months in high-risk patients and at least every 12 months for others** at risk of developing TD.¹³

In an effort to raise awareness of TD, states are being asked to declare May 4-10, 2025 as TD Awareness Week.

1 in 5

U.S. adults live with a mental illness.¹⁴

May is also Mental Health Awareness Month, and as we work to eliminate stigma associated with TD and increase routine screenings for TD, it is important to remember that those living with a mental health condition and taking necessary antipsychotic medication may develop or may already have TD.^{3,4}

Over the past seven years, all **50 states, Washington, D.C., and multiple mental health advocacy organizations** have continued to recognize the first full week of May as TD Awareness Week.

Learn more about TD, living with TD and how to treat TD by visiting [TalkAboutTD.com](https://www.talkabouttd.com).

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