Drug induced movement disorders (extrapyramidal side effects) are commonly associated with antipsychotics.

**Dystonia**

Muscle spasm can occur in any part of the body

Occurs in approximately 10% of patients, but more common in young males

Treated with anticholinergic drugs given orally, IV, or IM depending on the severity of symptoms

**Pseudo-parkinsonism (tremor and/or rigidity)**

Occurs in approximately 20% of patients, but more common in elderly females

Treatment options are: anticholinergic drugs

change to a second generation antipsychotic

reduce the dose of the antipsychotic

**Akathisia (restlessness)**

Occurs in approximately 25% of patients; lower incidence with second generation antipsychotics

Treatment options are: reduce the dose of the antipsychotic

change to a second generation antipsychotic

propranolol 30 – 80mg daily may help

**Tardive dyskinesia (abnormal movements)**

Approximately 50% of cases are reversible

Stop anticholinergic if prescribed

Reduce dose of antipsychotic and change to a second generation drug – clozapine is the antipsychotic most likely to cause a resolution of the symptoms

Tetrabenazine (initial dose 12.5mg daily) may be effective in relieving symptoms

**References**

2. Bazire; Psychotropic Drug Directory 2010
For further information: www.choiceandmedication.org/leedsand yorkpft

Provenance

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