

In Response To:

Walker RH. Reply to: Tardive dyskinesia-like syndrome due to drugs that do not block dopamine receptors: rare or non-existent: literature review. Tremor Other Hyperkinet Mov. 2019; 9. doi: 10.7916/3rez-p096

Original Article:

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Letters

Response to Letter to the Editor

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To the Editor,

We appreciate Dr. Walker's kind words for our manuscript. Our experience with spontaneous dyskinesias of the face in elderly people is not large enough to suggest one particular phenomenology over another. While we do not disagree with Dr. Walker's experience that these are usually dystonia, we do not feel that we have the experience to either agree or disagree. However, Dr. Walker notes an estimated prevalence of 100–400 per million (0.01–0.04%) of segmental dystonia, but reports on the prevalence of spontaneous dyskinesias in elderly people have produced considerably higher estimates, generally between 1% and 4%,^{1,2} with the movements primarily localized to the mouth. Assuming that elderly people comprise about 14% of the American population, the prevalence in the general population should be at least 0.14–0.5%, an order of magnitude greater than Dr. Walker

suggests. These reports have generally attempted to distinguish this entity from Meige's syndrome and tardive syndromes, and have looked into edentulous status, gum disorders, and teeth disorders as contributing factors. Based on these reports, we are skeptical that many primary dystonias are being misdiagnosed, but certainly think it possible, and agree that dystonia must be considered in the differential diagnosis.

References

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