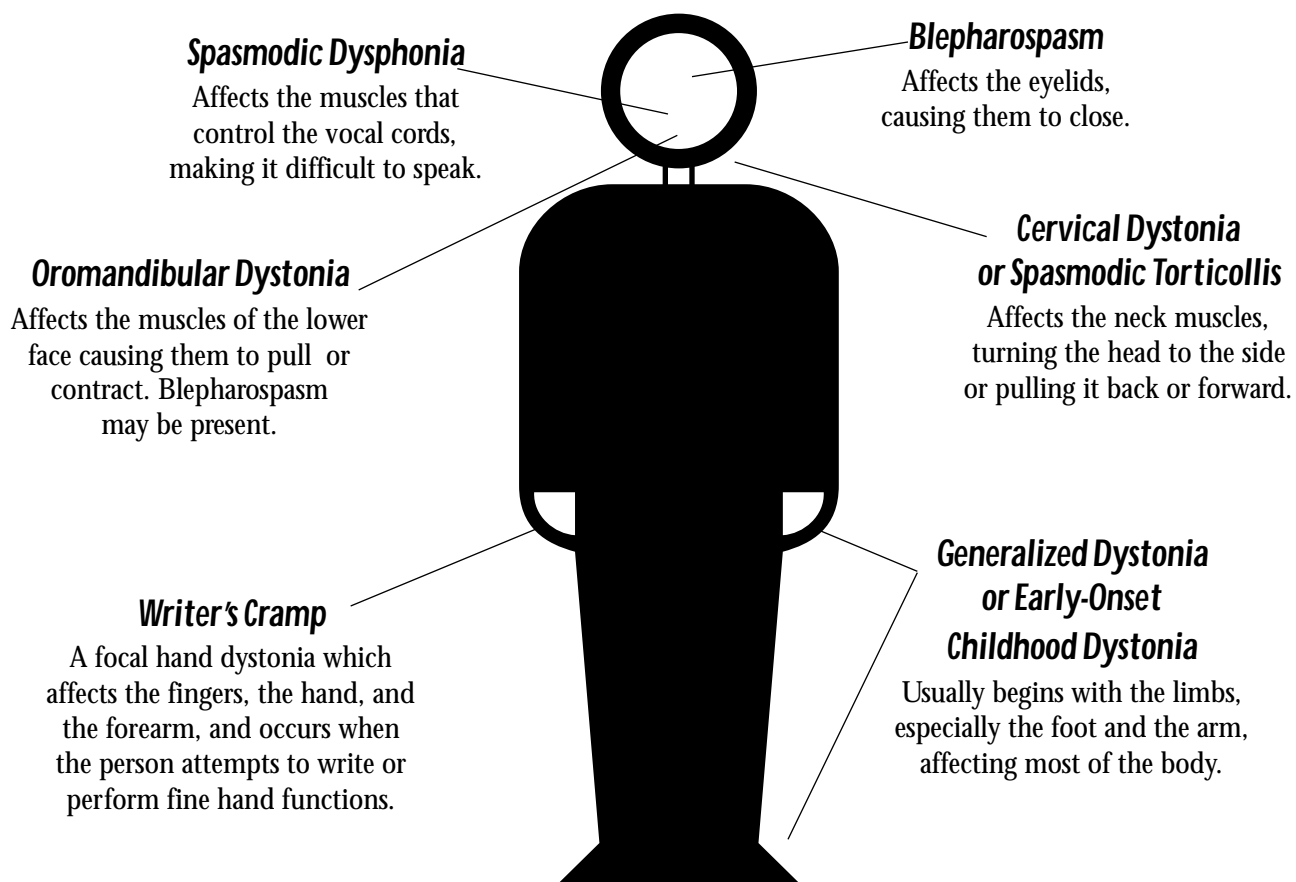


Understanding Dystonia

Dystonia is a neurological movement disorder that affects the muscles causing them to pull or spasm.



Inherited forms of dystonia include:

- Early-Onset Childhood
- Dopa-Responsive Dystonia
- Paroxysmal Dystonia
- X-linked Dystonia-Parkinsonism,
- Myoclonic Dystonia
- Rapid-Onset Dystonia-Parkinsonism

Focal forms of dystonia usually affect one part of the body. The most common are illustrated here.

Secondary forms of dystonia are a result of varying causes including birth injury, trauma, stroke, and drug-induced (tardive dystonia).

Dystonia is the third most common movement disorder after Parkinson's Disease and Tremor, affecting more than 300,000 people in North America.

Dystonia does not discriminate — any one at any time (all races and ethnic groups). It is not fatal, nor does it affect intellect.

Dystonia can be hereditary or result from a brain injury. Although there is no known cure for dystonia, treatments are available, including drug therapy, botulinum toxin injections, and several types of surgery.

Since its establishment in 1976, the Dystonia Foundation has funded over \$18 million dollars in research grants, established support groups for people with dystonia and their families, and continues to battle misdiagnosis through expanding educational and awareness programs.

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Log on to www.dystonia-foundation.org to learn more about dystonia!