Spasm odic Dysphonia / Laryngeal Dystonia
Affects muscles of the vocal cords, making it difficult to speak.

Oromandibular Dystonia
Affects the face, jaw, and/or tongue. Causes grimacing, tongue protrusion, jaw closure, or jaw opening.

Hand Dystonia / Writer’s Cramp
Causes the fingers to curl and the hand and forearm to cramp. Occurs when a person attempts to use the hand for writing, playing a musical instrument, or other activities.

Blepharospasm
Affects the eyelids, causing them to blink uncontrollably or remain closed.

Cervical Dystonia / Spasmodic Torticollis
Affects neck and shoulder muscles, turning the head to the side or forcing the head back or forward. A tremor may be present.

Generalized Dystonia
Affects many parts of the body simultaneously. Causes cramping and twisting in the feet, limbs, and torso.

Understanding Dystonia
Dystonia is a disorder that causes muscles in the body to contract and spasm involuntarily. Individuals who are affected by dystonia cannot control or predict the movement of their bodies. Symptoms of dystonia do not appear the same in every patient. Dystonia may affect a specific part of the body or many parts simultaneously.

- Symptoms of dystonia are usually chronic but may also appear only during “attacks” or episodes.
- Dystonia is the third most common movement disorder following essential tremor and Parkinson’s disease, affecting approximately 300,000 people in North America.
- Dystonia does not discriminate. Men, women and children of all ages and backgrounds are affected.
- Dystonia may be genetic or result form other health conditions such stroke, physical trauma, other diseases, or as a side effect of certain medications.
- Although there is no cure for dystonia, treatments are available.

MORE INFORMATION:
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