Dystonic Reaction

For suspected dystonic reaction (i.e., reaction, typically from antipsychotic medications, causing abnormal contraction of head and neck muscles)

**History**
- Medical history
- Medications
- Abuse or recreational use of prescription medications

**Signs and Symptoms**
- Restlessness
- Muscle spasms of the neck, jaw and back
- Oculogyric crisis
- Speech difficulties

**Differential**
- Trauma
- Stroke
- Tumor
- Hypoxia
- Infection
- Drug reactions
- Poisoning

**Pearls**
- Common drugs implicated in dystonic reactions include many anti-emetics and anti-psychotic medications including, but not limited to:
  - Prochlorperazine (Compazine)
  - Haloperidol (Haldol)
  - Metoclopramide (Reglan)
  - Promethazine (Phenergan)
  - Fluphenazine (Prolixin)
  - Chlorpromazine (Thorazine)
  - Many other anti-psychotic and anti-emetic drugs

**Procedure**

1. **Obtain vital signs**
   - Supplemental oxygen to maintain SpO₂ > 92%

2. **Pulse oximetry**

3. **Cardiac montior**

4. **Establish IV/IO**

5. **Diphenhydramine**

6. **Monitor and reassess**

7. **Notify receiving facility. Consider Base Hospital for medical direction**

8. **ALOC**

9. **Respiratory Distress**

10. **Hypotension**

11. **Shock**

**Effective November 2018**

Treatment Protocol X04

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