



Top 10 Non-Pharmacological Treatments

Treatment	Helps with	Notes
Education	Patient being the advocate for his or her own care over time results in improvements in overall health. Selecting the right doctor to work with in managing your case is essential.	Don't just show up for appointments and expect your doctor to have all the answers. Engage in a two-way discussion.
Exercise	Confidence, vascular tone, large muscle strength, and release of pain fighting endorphins	Must adjust for specific patient needs. Ideal to work with physical therapist to start.
Fluids	Prevents dehydration, and can create a helpful pressor effect.	Target 2-4 liters per day.
Salt	An essential electrolyte, which helps with nervous system function and effects blood pressure.	Up to 10 grams daily in moderate to low hypotensive patients.
Counter Maneuvers	Act as a back-up heart, pumping blood that has pooled back into circulation.	A common sign of patients with dysautonomia.
Diet	Eat several small meals throughout the day to maintain glucose levels and postprandial hypotension.	Avoid: Highly processed foods with chemical additives.
Compression Garments	Prevent pooling of blood in lower parts of the body. Especially helpful in hypotensive patients	Mid-thigh shaper Spanx™ known to increase systolic blood pressure by 10-15 mmHg in some patients.
Good Sleep Hygiene	Restorative sleep. Healing of the body and minimizes stress. Avoid stimulating activities 30 minutes prior to sleep.	Discuss any sleep issues with your physician.

www.TheDysautonomiaProject.org

A 501 (c) 3 not for profit organization aimed at speeding the time to diagnosis through local education.

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Dietary Supplements	Vitamin supplementation can be especially important when essential vitamin levels are deficient. Vitamins B-12 and Vitamin D are sometimes low in patients with dysautonomia.	Recommend discussing any dietary supplements with your physician.
Cranio-Sacral/Manual Therapy	Increasing relaxation and reducing stress with a light touch therapy in regions of the spinal cord associated with parasympathetic nerves.	Some evidence that heart rate variability may improve. More research is needed.

The Dysautonomia Project (a non-profit group) advocates that CranioSacral is one of the top 10 non-pharmaceutical treatments for this disorder.

Dysautonomia is an umbrella term used to describe several different medical conditions that cause a malfunction of the Autonomic Nervous System. The Autonomic Nervous System controls the "automatic" functions of the body that we do not consciously think about, such as heart rate, blood pressure, digestion, dilation and constriction of the pupils of the eye, kidney function, and temperature control. People living with various forms of dysautonomia have trouble regulating these systems, which can result in lightheadedness, fainting, unstable blood pressure, abnormal heart rates, malnutrition, and in severe cases, death.

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