

Parkinson's disease



A disorder of the central nervous system that affects movement, often including tremors.

Common

More than 200,000 US cases per year



Can't be cured, but treatment may help



Requires a medical diagnosis



Lab tests or imaging often required



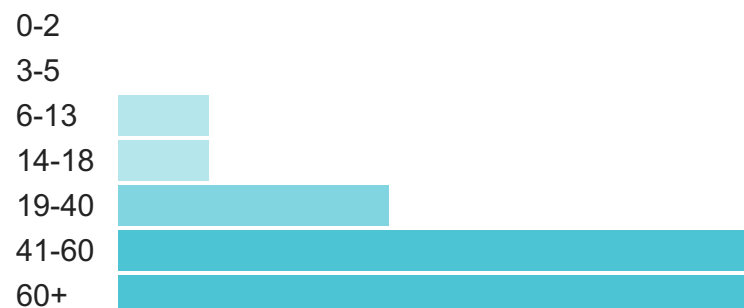
Chronic: can last for years or be lifelong

Nerve cell damage in the brain causes dopamine levels to drop, leading to the symptoms of Parkinson's.

Parkinson's often starts with a tremor in one hand. Other symptoms are slow movement, stiffness, and loss of balance.

Medications can help control the symptoms of Parkinson's.

Ages affected



Symptoms

Requires a medical diagnosis

Parkinson's often starts with a tremor in one hand. Other symptoms are slow movement, stiffness, and loss of balance.

People may experience:

Tremor: can occur at rest, in the hands, limbs, or can be postural

Muscular: stiff muscles, difficulty standing, difficulty walking, difficulty with bodily movements, involuntary movements, muscle rigidity, problems with coordination, rhythmic muscle contractions, slow bodily movement, or slow shuffling gait

Sleep: daytime sleepiness, early awakening, nightmares, or restless sleep

Whole body: fatigue, dizziness, poor balance, or restlessness

Cognitive: amnesia, confusion in the evening hours, dementia, or difficulty thinking and understanding

Sensory: distorted sense of smell, loss in contrast sensitivity, or loss of smell

Speech: impaired voice, soft speech, or voice box spasms

Mood: anxiety or apathy

Urinary: dribbling of urine or leaking of urine

Facial: jaw stiffness or reduced facial expression

Also common: blank stare, constipation, depression, difficulty swallowing, drooling, falling, fear of falling, neck tightness, small handwriting, trembling, unintentional writhing, or weight loss

Treatments

Can't be cured, but treatment may help

Medications can help control the symptoms of Parkinson's.

Prescription

Antiviral: Amantadine

Other treatments: Benztropine, Carbidopa/Levodopa, Selegiline (Eldepryl), Rotigotine through the skin, Entacapone (Comtan), Ropinirole (Requip), Rasagiline (Azilect), Bromocriptine (Parlodel), Rivastigmine (Exelon), Cabergoline, Tolcapone (Tasmar), Pramipexole (Mirapex)

Also common

Lifestyle: Physical exercise

Specialists

Neurologist: Treats nervous system disorders.

Primary care provider (PCP): Prevents, diagnoses, and treats diseases.

Consult a doctor for medical advice

Note: The information you see describes what usually happens with a medical condition, but doesn't apply to everyone. This information isn't medical advice, so make sure to contact a healthcare provider if you have a medical problem. If you think you may have a medical emergency, call your doctor or a emergency number immediately.