Parkinson Disease
What You Should Know

Parkinson disease is a life-threatening brain disease that causes the degradation of brain cells that produce dopamine. Parkinson disease affects the ability to perform purposeful movement and often results in serious cardiopulmonary, neuropsychiatric, musculoskeletal, and autonomic complications.

Risk Factors
- Older age
- Genetic mutations
- Familial history
- Exposure to chemicals and pesticides
- Lifestyle risk factors

Approximately 1% of older adults in the developed world have Parkinson Disease

Potential Complications

Complications of Parkinson disease, some of which can be fatal, include:

Dysphagia with aspiration and choking
Falls resulting in musculoskeletal injuries, such as fractures
Respiratory failure requiring mechanical ventilation
Dysarthria which limits communication
Autonomic dysfunction including orthostatic hypotension and constipation

Signs & Symptoms

Motor Signs / Symptoms
- Bradykinesia
- Rigidity
- Resting tremor
- Festinating gait
- Impaired postural reflexes

Non-motor Signs / Symptoms
- Dementia
- Mood disorders
- Fatigue
- Pain
- Hyposmia

Lifestyle risk factors
- Older age
- Exposure to chemicals and pesticides
- Genetic mutations
- Familial history

Did You Find This Information Helpful?

This infographic was created based on content found in Dynamic Health™, an innovative evidence-based information resource designed to help nurses and allied health professionals master critical skills, obtain fast, accurate answers to clinical questions, and foster a culture of evidence-based practice and critical thinking, leading to improved patient outcomes.