



Facts about Parkinson's disease

- Parkinson's disease is a complex, multi-symptom, debilitating, degenerative neurological disorder.
- Parkinson's disease is named for Dr. James Parkinson, who first discovered the features of this illness in 1817.
- The four main symptoms of the disease are shaking (tremors), muscle stiffness, slow movement and lack of balance.
- More than 1.5 million people have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.
- Approximately 50,000 Americans are diagnosed with Parkinson's disease each year.
- One in 200 people will be diagnosed with Parkinson's disease during their lifetime with the risk increasing with age (one in every 100 people over 60 has Parkinson's).
- The average onset of Parkinson's disease is 60 years old, with less than 10 percent of people diagnosed before the age of 40.
- Parkinson's disease is more common in men than women.
- The cause of Parkinson's disease is unknown. Possible causes include long-term, low-level exposure to an environmental toxin combined with a genetic vulnerability causing neuron death.
- Currently, there is not a cure for Parkinson's disease. However, there are some treatments including medication and in some cases surgery to relieve symptoms.

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