

# Parkins\*\*n's Disease

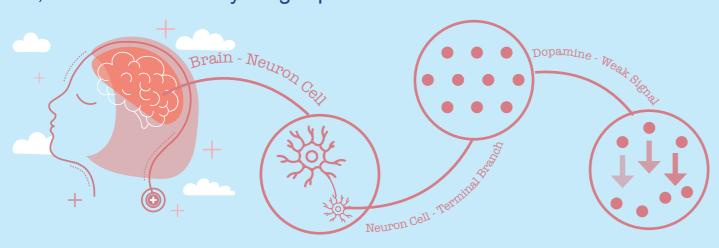
Parkinson's disease affects each person differently. If you or someone close to you has been diagnosed with PD, don't be overwhelmed. This has been designed to help you with valuable information about PD

Note- The information contained is solely for the information of the reader. It should not be used for treatment purposes, but for discussion with the patient's own physician.



#### WHAT IS PARKINSON'S DISEASE?

PD is a type of neurodegenerative disease. There is a loss of neurons (nerve cells) in certain areas of the brain causing loss of dopamine. Dopamine helps to regulate movement. Loss of dopamine can affect the ability to perform common, daily activities. This **loss of dopamine** is the reason that many treatments for PD are intended to increase dopamine levels in the brain. Most people who develop the symptoms of PD do so sometime after the age of 50, but PD can affect younger persons as well.



#### **SYMPTOMS**

Please note that the symptoms of PD can vary greatly from individual to individual - both in terms of their intensity and how they progress.

#### **Motor and Related Symptoms of PD**



**Tremor** 









instability



Weight

Loss

**Rigidity** 

**Non-Motor Symptoms of PD** 



Sense of Smell

Sleep **Problems** 

Depression & Anxiety



**Fatique** 



Sexual Concerns

### WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE FIRST **PHYSICIAN VISIT**

- Diagnosis is often made by a general neurologist, who is trained to diagnose and treat neurologic disorders.
- It is important that you feel comfortable with your physician to ensure the best possible outcome for you.
- Once you receive a diagnosis of PD, it is time to discuss treatment options with your physician.

#### **CURRENT TREATMENT**

There is currently no cure for PD. It is possible to successfully manage symptoms through healthy choices, medications, and, in some cases, Deep brain stimulation (DBS) surgery is advised.





#### **LIVING WITH PD**

- Lifestyle, including regular exercise and a healthy diet
- Regular Medications and other treatments
- A supportive social network
- A strong communication with your healthcare team

## **CONSIDER JOINING A SUPPORT GROUP**

Participating in a support group is a wonderful way to receive practical information and education about living with PD. More importantly, members receive the support of others who truly understand the illness.Check out the website to find the nearest support group in your area!





# LIVING TO YOUR FULLEST **POTENTIAL WITH PARKINSONS DISEASE!**

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"Parkinson's be accorded priority in national health programs"