

TYPES OF PARKINSONISM

Parkinsonism



An umbrella term for several conditions including Parkinson's Disease with similar symptoms such as multiple system atrophy.

Types of Parkinsonism are based on their cause.

Parkinsonism is treatable, can go away without treatment, is age-related, and is more common in males than females.

3 types: idiopathic, vascular (arteriosclerotic), and drug-induced.

Parkinson's Disease



Makes 80% of all Parkinsonism cases

Second most common age-related degenerative brain disease and most common motor brain disease.

Diagnosing Parkinsonism



1. Blood test helps identify other causes of Parkinsonism
2. Genetic testing helps identify a family history of Parkinsonism which is common in 10-15% of all cases
3. DaTscan checks the dopamine levels in one's brain
4. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) helps identify brain tumours and vascular Parkinsonism

Idiopathic Parkinsonism



The cause of this kind of Parkinsonism is unknown. It makes up 85% of the cases. On average, onsets between those who are 55 to 65 years old but not often before 50 years of age.

Responds well to medications
Symptoms: tremor, rigidity, bradykinesia (slow movements).

Vascular Parkinsonism



Caused by the restricted blood supply to the brain due to minor strokes in important brain regions. Responds poorly to medications.

Symptoms: problems with memory, sleep, mood, posture, and gait.

Drug-induced Parkinsonism



Caused by neuroleptic drugs which are used to treat some psychotic disorders which blocks dopamine in the brain. Second most common type of parkinsonism.

Usually recovers within days, weeks, or months of stopping the drug which induced the behaviour.

Symptoms are similar to Parkinson's Disease symptoms.