

PARKINSON'S DISEASE (PD)



Overview

This motor system disorder is a chronic and progressive degenerative disease that interferes with movement, speech, and other functions in the body. It can significantly impair daily activities.

Causes

Parkinson's disease is a neurological disorder caused by the degeneration of dopamine-producing cells in the brain. In people with Parkinson's disease, these cells become damaged for no known reason. Parkinson's disease usually develops in people over the age of 50, but it can also occur in younger people.

Dopamine

Dopamine is a neurotransmitter that plays several key roles in brain function, including relaying messages to the regions of the brain that control movement and coordination. In a brain affected by Parkinson's disease, insufficient dopamine levels prohibit these regions from functioning normally.

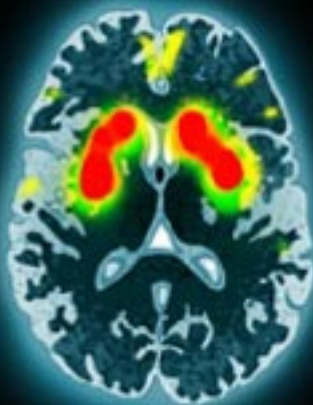
Symptoms

Parkinson's disease causes trembling of the limbs, stiffness in the limbs and trunk, slowness of movement, and loss of balance and coordination. The disease may progress gradually or quickly. Subtle symptoms may be present for years before the disease is diagnosed.

Treatment

Parkinson's disease cannot be cured, but it can be managed. Treatment options typically include medications, physical and occupational therapy, and speech therapy. Some people may also benefit from surgical procedures, including the implantation of a deep brain stimulation device.

HEALTHY BRAIN
ACTIVITY



DECREASED
DOPAMINE

