

Parkinson's Disease

General Information

What is Parkinson's Disease?

Parkinson's Disease primarily affects the **dopamine-producing neurons** in the brain, particularly in areas called the basal ganglia and substantia nigra. Dopamine is a crucial neurotransmitter that helps regulate movement and coordination.

Symptoms and Impact

Motor Symptoms: These include tremors, stiffness, and difficulty with balance and coordination. As the disease progresses, these motor symptoms can make everyday activities more challenging.

Cognitive Symptoms: You may experience problems with memory, attention, and planning. These cognitive issues can interfere with the ability to perform tasks that require thinking and movement at the same time.

What Happens in the Brain?

Basal Ganglia and Substantia Nigra: These parts of the brain help control complex movements and automatic body functions.

Dopamine Production: In Parkinson's Disease, the substantia nigra loses its color and stops producing enough dopamine, which is important for movement.

Medication for Parkinson's Disease

Levodopa: As the disease progresses, patients usually take medications like levodopa to help replace the dopamine that the brain isn't making anymore.

Why This Matters

Knowledge Helps: Knowing how Parkinson's affects the brain and body will make you feel more confident in your treatments. This understanding also helps your patients trust you and your treatment plans.

