

Treatment for Patients with Parkinson's Disease



Daily life can be difficult for people with Parkinson's, a relentlessly progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects both movement and cognition.

Patients must exert tremendous effort to complete basic activities of daily living — from bathing and dressing to eating and running errands. As the disease progresses, many people come to rely on caregivers.

There are no treatments that cure, reverse or stop disease progression. That makes access to treatments that address symptoms all the more important.

Treating a Multifaceted Disease

People with Parkinson's may need treatments to address tremor, stiffness, slowness of movement or falls. Treatments may also help them address cognitive and emotional challenges, such as cognitive decline, psychosis, anxiety or depression.

As the disease progresses, people also begin to experience off time, periods where medications are less effective and symptoms are more evident. Most people with Parkinson's require multiple treatments to address the multitude of issues they face.

Delivery Method Matters

The effectiveness of a Parkinson's treatment for a given patient sometimes depends upon how it's administered. A variety of administration routes exist for currently available Parkinson's medications.

Delivery Methods for Parkinson's Medications



Oral



Injected



Inhaled



Intestinally
Infused



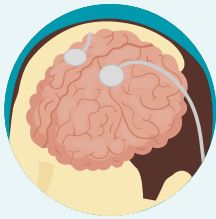
Surgically
Administered

Other Considerations

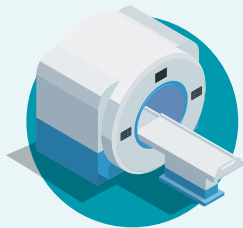
A medication's route of administration is not the only consideration.

People with Parkinson's also respond differently to pharmacological treatments. And because patients' needs are so varied, non-pharmacological treatments may be used to address symptoms in ways that medication does not. For example, exercise has been shown to improve the course of Parkinson's.

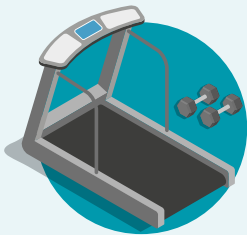
Non-pharmacological Treatment Options



Deep brain stimulation



MRI-guided focused ultrasound



Physical therapy and exercise

Individualized and Tailored Care

Because symptoms and complications vary, a one-size-fits-all approach to treatment is ineffective. People with Parkinson's need individualized care.

Too often, however, insurers limit options — ignoring the reality that Parkinson's is extraordinarily complex and causes a myriad of symptoms that evolve over years of relentless progression.

Limiting treatment options denies patients effective care for their complex, unique combination of symptoms. While one treatment may address a few symptoms, the inability to access treatments for other symptoms can reduce quality of life for many patients.

Conclusion

People with Parkinson's need access to the treatment regimen that works best for them.

Policymakers and insurers can prioritize the health of Parkinson's patients by ensuring that the full range of treatment options, including all routes of administration, is available.



Alliance for Patient Access

The Alliance for Patient Access is a national network of policy-minded health care providers advocating for patient-centered care.

AllianceforPatientAccess.org



The Movement Disorders Policy Coalition brings together advocacy groups, health care providers, patients and other stakeholders to inform policy impacting patient-centered care for people living with movement disorders.

MovementDisordersPolicy.org

