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Parkinson's Disease

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Parkinson's disease is a condition of neural degeneration. It affects approximately 1% of people 65 years and older, and 0.4% of those older than 40 years. It occurs across all ethnic and racial groups, and also approximately equal sex distribution. The most common form of Parkinsonism (idiopathic Parkinsonism) develops between 45 and 65 years of age.

The etiology of Parkinsonism may be multifactorial. Exposure to certain toxins (for example manganese dust, carbon disulfide) and severe carbon monoxide poisoning may play a role. It is also seen in people who took MPTP recreationally – which converts to a neurotoxin in the body. Other drugs and medication can cause a reversible form of this disease. Postencephalitic parkinsonism is becoming more rare, and parkinsonism can also be related to a brain tumor or some other progressive space-occupying lesion. The most common form of Parkinsonism is idiopathic, in which dopamine is depleted and an imbalance in neurotransmitters is created. Treatment in this case is directed and redressing the imbalance.

Symptoms

Symptoms of Parkinson's Disease include shuffling gait, slowness of movement, tendency for falling, resting tremors (which usually affect

