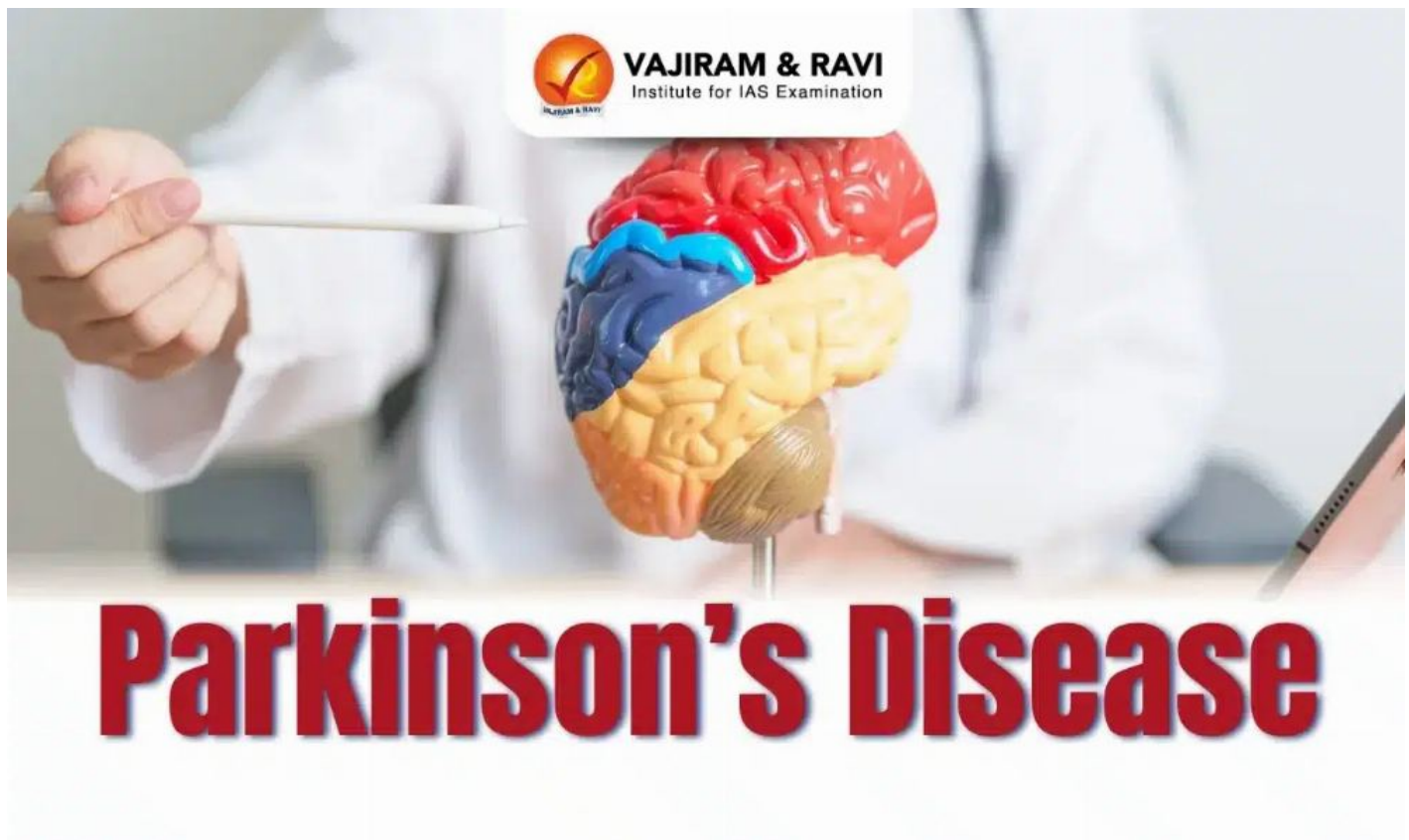


Parkinson's Disease

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Parkinson's Disease Latest News

A condition that compels people to move their legs could indicate they have a greater chance of developing Parkinson's disease.

About Parkinson's Disease

- It is a **progressive neurodegenerative disorder** that **primarily affects movement**.
- It **causes nerve cells (neurons)** in parts of the brain **to weaken**, become **damaged**, and **die**, leading to symptoms that include **problems with movement, tremor, stiffness, and impaired balance**.
- **As symptoms progress**, people with PD may have **difficulty walking, talking, or completing other simple tasks**.
- Although many brain areas are affected in Parkinson's disease, the **most common symptoms result from the loss of neurons in an area** near the base of the brain called **the substantia nigra**.
 - The **neurons in this area produce dopamine**.

- Dopamine is the **chemical messenger that transmits signals in the brain to produce smooth, purposeful movement.**
- Most people with PD have lost 60 to 80% or more of the dopamine-producing cells in the substantia nigra by the time symptoms appear.
- Lack of dopamine causes the slowed movements and tremors symptoms of Parkinson's disease.
- **Who does it affect?**
 - The disease **usually occurs in older people**, but younger people can also be affected.
 - **Men are affected more** often than women.
 - The **cause of PD is unknown but people with a family history of the disease have a higher risk.**
 - **Exposure to air pollution, pesticides, and solvents may increase risk.**
 - **People with PD often develop a "parkinsonian gait."**
 - This includes a **tendency to lean forward, taking small, quick steps** as if hurrying (called **festination**), and reduced swinging in one or both arms.
 - They may have **trouble initiating movement** (called "start hesitation") and stop suddenly as they walk, freezing in place.
- **Diagnosis:** Currently, **no blood laboratory or radiological tests are available** to diagnose Parkinson's disease.
- **Treatment:** There's **no cure** for this disease, but treatments can help significantly improve your symptoms.

Source: SA

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/what-is-parkinsons-disease/>

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