



PARKINSON'S DISEASE NEWS

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CAUSES OF SUDDEN WORSENING IN PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Neurologist [2012] 18 (3) : 120-124 (K.S.Zheng, B.J.Dorfman, P.J.Christos, N.R.Khadem, C.Henchcliffe, P. Piboolnurak, M.J.Nirenberg)

Episodes of sudden and transient worsening of symptoms commonly occur in Parkinson's Disease, especially when the Parkinson's Disease is more severe. A quarter of people with Parkinson's Disease were found to be affected in this way. Infection was the single most frequent cause, accounting for a quarter of cases. Other common causes were anxiety, medication errors, poor adherence to taking the required drugs, medication side effects, and postoperative decline. Overall, over 80% of reasons were attributable to reversible or treatable causes.

Most people who experienced a sudden worsening of symptoms recovered fully, but a third of people experienced recurrent episodes. One in six people suffered permanent decline. Those people most prone to sudden or transient worsening were those who had Parkinson's Disease for nearly eight years or more, had more severe symptoms, had greater use of dopaminergic drugs, and had a greater prevalence of motor complications.

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