



PARKINSON'S DISEASE NEWS

<http://www.viartis.net/parkinsons.disease/news.htm>

18th October 2017 - New research

DRIVING SAFETY DECLINES IN PARKINSON'S DISEASE

People with Parkinson's Disease have been assumed to decline in their driving ability due to the problems that Parkinson's Disease causes. People with Parkinson's Disease were assessed in their driving ability and again two years later.



Drivers with Parkinson's Disease performed worse on visual, cognitive, and motor tests, and committed more road safety errors compared to those people who did not have Parkinson's Disease. However, the difference was not as great as expected. The number of errors was about 25% greater with drivers who had Parkinson's Disease and so would not suggest any need for most people with Parkinson's Disease to initially cease driving due to the errors they made.

When the tests were repeated those people with Parkinson's Disease performed similarly to those people who did not have Parkinson's Disease. However, two years later, people with Parkinson's Disease showed greater cognitive decline and worse visual acuity. They had a greater increase in driving errors, with an increase in errors over 4 times that of people who did not have Parkinson's Disease. So it appears that initially although driving ability does not greatly worsen in people with Parkinson's Disease, that driving ability gradually worsens over time.

Reference : Neurology [2017] Oct 11 [Epub ahead of print] (E.Y.Uc, M.Rizzo, A.M.J. O'Shea, S.W.Anderson, J.D.Dawson)

Complete abstract : <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29021353>

<http://www.viartis.net/parkinsons.disease/news/171018.pdf>

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