



PARKINSON'S DISEASE NEWS

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

22nd December 2017 - New research

LASER SHOES FOR PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Laser shoes have been developed to help with the freezing that can occur in Parkinson's Disease. When freezing (freezing of gait) occurs, the person finds themselves unable to take a step despite willing themselves to walk forward. This can occur for anything from a few seconds to over a minute and can cause a person to lose their balance and fall over. Each laser shoe has a projection device mounted to the toe that produces a line about 18 inches (half a metre) ahead, towards which the user can then step. Patients with Parkinson's Disease who had freezing of gait were assessed in "off" and also "on" medication states.



Cueing using laser shoes was associated with a significant reduction in freezing of gait episodes both during "off" medication (45%) and "on" (37%) medication. Moreover, laser shoes significantly reduced the time frozen by 56% during "off" medication, and 51% during "on" medication. These effects were paralleled by the patients' positive subjective experience on the efficacy of laser shoes.

These findings demonstrate the immediate efficacy of laser shoes and so offer a promising intervention with potential to deliver in-home cueing for patients with freezing of gait.

Reference : Neurology [2017] Dec 20 [Epub ahead of print] (C.Barthel, J.Nonnekes, M.van Helvert, R.Haan, A.Janssen, A.Delval, V.Weerdesteyn, B.Debû, R.van Wezel, B.R.Bloem, M.U.Ferraye) Complete abstract : <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29263221>

<http://www.viartis.net/parkinsons.disease/news/171222.pdf>

mail@viartis.net

©2017 Viartis