



NEUROCOGNITIVE DISORDERS

MAJOR AND MILD NEUROCOGNITIVE DISORDER DUE TO PARKINSON'S DISEASE (PARKINSON'S DISEASE DEMENTIA)

What it is:

Parkinson's disease is a degenerative neurological disorder that is caused by decreased dopamine production in the brain. It causes tremors, muscle stiffness, slowness of movement, and poor balance and mobility. Although the disease predominantly causes physical symptoms, problems with cognitive function, including forgetfulness and difficulty with concentration, may arise later. As Parkinson's disease progresses, some individuals may develop major or mild neurocognitive disorder due to Parkinson's disease, also known as Parkinson's disease dementia.

In order for a diagnosis of major or mild neurological disorder due to Parkinson's disease to be diagnosed, the following criteria should be met:

1. The criteria for major or mild neurocognitive disorder should be met
2. The individual should have an established case of Parkinson's disease
3. The cognitive impairment slowly but gradually worsens
4. The neurocognitive disorder is not caused by another medical condition or mental disorder
5. There are no other neurological diseases or conditions that could cause the loss in cognitive function
6. The Parkinson's disease was present before the neurocognitive disorder

Common symptoms:

1. Difficulty speaking and communicating with others
2. Difficulty solving problems
3. Difficulty understanding abstract concepts
4. Forgetfulness and memory loss
5. Difficulty paying attention
6. Changes in personality
7. Excessive day time sleepiness
8. Hallucinations and/or delusions

9. Depressed or anxious mood
10. Apathy



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Causes:

Major or mild neurocognitive disorder due to Parkinson's disease is caused by the progression of the disease. However, not all individuals with Parkinson's disease will develop major or mild neurocognitive disorder. Older age and the duration of Parkinson's disease are two risk factors for developing major or mild neurocognitive disorders due to Parkinson's disease.

Remember to always consult a mental health or medical practitioner regarding any questions you may have about a mental health diagnosis and treatment options.

This factsheet is based on information obtained from the DSM-5:
American Psychiatric Association, 2013. *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition.*