



Parkinson Canada

Parkinson's fact sheet

About Parkinson's

- Parkinson's is a chronic, degenerative neurological condition caused by the loss of dopamine-producing cells in the brain.
- Parkinson's is commonly characterized by motor symptoms, such as slowness of movement, tremor, rigidity and impaired balance, which affects a person's movement and balance.
 - Additional symptoms can include fatigue, speech and writing difficulties, sleep disorders, loss of smell, depression, and cognitive changes.
- There is currently no cure for Parkinson's, but there are medications that can help to slow the progression.
- The exact cause of Parkinson's is unknown. Researchers are exploring various theories, including genetics and environmental factors.

About Parkinson's in Canada:

- The number of people with Parkinson's in Canada is growing rapidly. In 2024, more than 110,000 people are living with Parkinson's in Canada and we anticipate the number will grow to 150,000 by 2034.
- Parkinson's diagnosis before the age of 50 are referred to as "early onset Parkinson's."
- Most people diagnosed with Parkinson's are age 65 or older, but an estimated 5-20% of people with Parkinson's are diagnosed before the age of 50, which is called early onset Parkinson's.
- About 10% of Parkinson's cases are believed to be familial or genetic, meaning they are linked to inherited genes. Most cases, however, happen sporadically without a clear family history.
- In Canada, the economic burden of Parkinson's in 2024 results in \$3.3 billion in costs for people living with Parkinson's, care partners, and the health system, rising to \$4.4 billion in 2034.

- For more information about the economic burden of Parkinson's in Canada, visit parkinsonspricetag.ca

About Parkinson Canada:

- Parkinson Canada is the voice of people living with Parkinson's in Canada, since 1965.
- Our mission is to empower and inspire people living with Parkinson's and their care partners to thrive and live courageously.
- Our vision is a world where no one is limited by Parkinson's
- Parkinson Canada offers a toll-free support line in English and French from 9 a.m. EST to 4 pm. EST, Monday through Friday. Our team is knowledgeable and handles each person's concerns confidentially.
- Parkinson Canada funds promising research focused on finding new treatments, better ways to diagnose Parkinson's, enhancing quality of life, as well as risk and prevention. We also empower people affected by Parkinson's with the latest scientific information.
- We advocate for a better life for people affected by Parkinson's by engaging with federal, provincial, and territorial governments to raise awareness of the impact the condition has on people's lives.