

Akinesia [A-kin-NEE-juh]

- » Lack of or loss of the ability to initiate movement

Bradykinesia [bray-dee-kin-NEE-juh]

- » Slowness of movement

Bradyphrenia [bray-dee-FREEN-ya]

- » Slowness of thinking

Dyskinesia [dis-kih-NEE-juh]

- » Abnormal, random, twisting, turning, involuntary movement, usually seen in the arms, legs, head, and trunk

Dysphagia [dis-FAY-juh]

- » Difficulty swallowing

Dystonia [dis-TOH-nee-uh]

- » Sustained involuntary muscle contraction

Freezing, or freezing of gait (FOG)

- » The sudden but temporary inability to move the legs and feet when walking; the sense that one's feet are glued to the floor

Hallucinations

- » An abnormal sense perception unrelated to real events, such as seeing or hearing people or animals that are not there

Hypophonia [hy-po-FO-nee-uh]

- » Reduced speech volume

Impulse Control Disorder (ICD)

- » ICDs are a reduced ability to control your impulses and to make good decisions about your impulses, such as impulses to spend, to eat, to pursue sexual interests, etc.
 - » ICDs include pathological gambling, hypersexuality, compulsive buying, compulsive eating and kleptomania
 - » ICDs can be associated with PD medications

Masked Facies [fay-SHEEZ]

- » In some people with PD, facial muscles no longer work properly causing facial expressions of emotions to be more difficult to make; facial expression of emotion for PD patients sometimes resembles a "mask"

Micrographia [my-kro-GRAF-ee-uh]

- » Small, cramped handwriting

Motor symptoms

- » Symptoms of PD affecting movement

Nonmotor symptoms

- » PD symptoms unrelated to movement

“Off” time

- » Time when PD medications fail to control symptoms; commonly experienced before a dose of medication has “kicked in,” or when an earlier dose has worn off

“On” time

- » Time when PD medications successfully control symptoms

“On” time with dyskinesia:

- » A period of time when medication controls PD symptoms but also causes uncontrolled twisting, turning movements, called dyskinesia

“On-off” phenomenon

- » Unpredictable response to a dose of levodopa, in which rapid switches are made between adequate symptom control (“on” time) and inadequate symptom control (“off” time)

Parkinsonism

- » A collection of symptoms in which a patient has a combination of tremor, stiffness, slowness and balance problems; the most common cause of parkinsonism is PD, but it can also be caused by other illnesses or certain medications

Parkinson's disease (PD)

- » PD is a chronic progressive neurological disease that affects a small area of nerve cells (neurons) in an area of the brain known as the substantia nigra
 - » These cells normally produce dopamine, a chemical (neurotransmitter) that transmits signals between areas in the brain that, when working normally, coordinate smooth and balanced muscle movement
 - » PD causes these nerve cells to die, and as a result, body movements are affected

Resting tremor

- » A rhythmic shaking that is more obviously seen when the affected body part is at rest

Restless leg syndrome (RLS)

- » A condition that produces an intense, often irresistible urge to move the legs because of unpleasant sensations, usually while trying to sleep

Rigidity

- » Stiffness in the muscles or resistance to movement

Substantia nigra [sub-STAN-shuh-NIGH-gruh]

» One of the movement control centers in the brain where loss of dopamine-producing cells triggers PD symptoms

Tremor

» Trembling or shakiness in a body part such as the hands, legs, arms, head, or voice

» Resting tremor, trembling in a limb when it is not moving, is the most common symptom of PD

» Tremors are unilateral, meaning they usually begin on one side of the body