

(Insert Classical Music)

Do you know of anyone who may have uncontrolled tremor, where they have involuntary shaking in their hands or other body parts? Rigidity, in which they have really stiff muscles and jerky movements across their body? Or possibly a postural instability, where they are unstable and unbalanced in their normal, everyday bodily movements? Chances are, unfortunately, is that they may have a neurodegenerative disease called Parkinson's that affects 60,000 Americans per year.

(insert clip describing Parkinson's)

Patients who have Parkinson's tend to have a reduced amount of a specific hormone in the body called Dopamine. Dopamine is important in the brain in which it allows and facilitates the function of bodily movements.

(Insert clip describing dopamine in the brain and the area Substantia Nigra)

And although there may not be a specific medication that eradicates the spread of Parkinson's throughout the body and the nervous system, several treatments can be used to hinder its effects for a short period.

(Insert Khan academy clip about treatments)

Parkinson's, like many other neurological diseases, was first discovered in the early nineteenth century by neurologist James Parkinson. Parkinson discovered that in three of his patients, the same three symptoms of tremor, rigidity, and postural instability were evident in each.

(Insert clip about Parkinson)

You may not be as familiar with the name James Parkinson, but you probably have a higher chance of knowing the names Michael J. Fox and Muhammad Ali. Fox, an actor famous for his roles in the trilogy *Back to the Future*, and Ali, boxer who is considered by many as the greatest athlete of all time, both were diagnosed with this disease at a young age and have led campaigns towards research funding of this disease.

(Insert clip of Michael J. Fox speaking about the foundations with Ali)

With this increased amount of funding towards research of this disease, along with national governments across the world contributing to the cause, many more clinical trials and better quality technology has risen as a result.

(insert clip of Australian neurologists conducting trial on Argentinian with PD)

As seen through the trials at St. Vincent's Sydney, new treatments have been shown to produce positive results for the patients at hand. Through the continuation of funding and several clinical trials, the treatment for Parkinson's Disease may be closer than we can ever imagine.

(Classical Music fades out)