

(Insert Classical Music)

Do you know of anyone who may have uncontrolled tremor, rigidity, or a possible postural instability, that affects their overall balance? Chances are, unfortunately, is that they may have a neurodegenerative disease called Parkinson's that affects 60,000 Americans per year. But what *exactly* is Parkinson's?

(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. Think of Dopamine as the hormone that allows you to move your body the way you want to. With less amounts of Dopamine produced in the brain, the less you are able to control your normal body movements, like using your hand to hold your fork. This is why patients with Parkinson's tend to have tremor, or shakiness in their bodies

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

And although there may not be a specific medication that lessens 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, both who 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)

As Fox just stated, campaigns led by him and other organizations have helped raise money towards research of Parkinson's. As a result, technology and treatments at hospitals have been improved greatly. This is seen through recent clinical trials at St. Vincents-Sydney in Australia.

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

The trials at St. Vincents-Sydney produced several positive results for the patient with Parkinson's. Through the continuation of clinical trials such as this one, the treatment for Parkinson's Disease may be closer than we can ever imagine.

(Classical Music fades out)