

PARKINSON'S DISEASE

by Dr Andrew Lockie

In most cases of Parkinson's Disease no obvious cause can be found for the gradual deterioration of the nerve centres in the brain which are responsible for controlling movement. The condition is not fatal in itself and is seldom painful, but it is progressive. Slightly more men than women are affected and patients rarely show symptoms of the disease before the age of 50. It is believed that there may be a minor hereditary factor in its incidence.

Cause of the disease

As the disease progresses, the delicate balance between neurotransmitters, which ensure transmission of nerve impulses, is disturbed. In a few instances the cause has been discovered to be carbon-monoxide poisoning by heavy metals such as mercury or manganese, or drugs, particularly the phenothiazines used in the treatment of Schizophrenia, or a rare form of Encephalitis. If the Parkinson's is drug related, stopping the drug can frequently eradicate the symptoms.

Diagnosis

Parkinson's Disease can be diagnosed in its early stages by an involuntary tremor of the hands or head. This can be controlled when the patient makes a conscious decision to move them. The next stage is when movements which are only just under voluntary control (clear speech, legible writing, maintaining balance, swinging the arms when walking) deteriorate. Eventually voluntary movements become slow and difficult to initiate: the patient tends to fall easily and gait becomes shuffling. Other symptoms include memory loss, patchy concentration, abdominal cramps and excessive salivation.




Drugs for the disease

Nowadays patients coming to see us with Parkinson's Disease which is well established

will already be on Levodopa unless it is just in the early stages, in which case they may be on Selegiline. Both of these drugs do appear to slow down the progression of the disease until the latter stages. Most homoeopaths would not consider stopping the patient's drugs in this situation when they are already established on them but would give homoeopathic treatment in addition to them. Although homoeopathy can offer a number of remedies for occasional use, the condition requires the ongoing care of an experienced homoeopath.

When symptoms are especially bad, or the patient is unable to see a homoeopath, the following remedies may be taken four times daily for up to two weeks for the listed specific complaints:



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Trembling hands with tremor accompanied and made worse by perspiration, equally great sensitivity to heat and cold, intermittent memory and concentration, over production of saliva accompanied by a sweet or metallic taste in the mouth, loss of will power. Take *Mercurius 6c*.

Extreme restlessness with twitching in every muscle. Psychologically suspicious and jealous with an inclination to behave in an obscene manner. Take *Hyosyamus 6c*.

Stiffness and itchiness in limbs which tremble and twitch. Accompanied by extreme sensitivity of the spine. Take *Agaricus 6c*.

Tremor not very marked but stiffness or cramp exacerbated by immobility and damp and improved by moving about. Take *Rhus Tox 6c*.

Staggering gait accompanied by extreme trembling and weakness mostly affecting tone, eyes and swallowing. Take *Gelsemium 6c*.

Finally, in cases where none of the above fully describe the conditions or are not effective. Take *Manganum 6c*.

BHA



CLARENCE HOUSE
S.W.1

7th August 1995

Dear Mr Long

I write at the bidding of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother to tell you how touched Her Majesty was to receive the birthday greetings you sent on behalf of the President, Council, Members and Staff of the British Homoeopathic Association.

The Patron greatly appreciated your thought for her and I am to ask if you would convey an expression of Her Majesty's sincere thanks to all those who joined with you.

Private Secretary to
Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother

Martin Long, Esq., CBE,
Chairman,
The British Homoeopathic Association.



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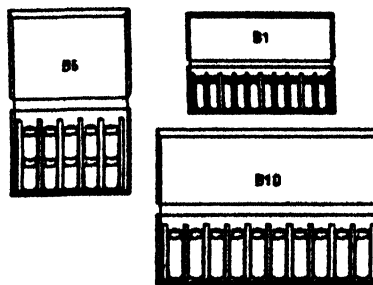
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A. Barker



R.E. Barker