PARKINSON'S AND THE EYE

Alicia Eby, MD 1/14/25

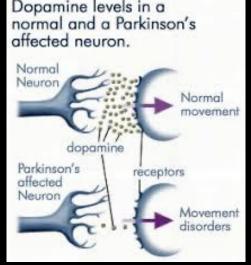


Parkinson's Disease

- Progressive neurodegenerative disease primarily effecting the basal ganglia.
- Can effect motor or sensory functions
- Studies suggest ocular findings may indicate disease status or progression including ocular movements, depth perception, contrast sensitivity, color vision and blink rate.

Pathophysiology

- Decreased dopamine in the CNS
- In the eye, dopamine works in the retina to regulate cellular function including the photoreceptors



Symptoms

- Double vision (diplopia) may make reading difficult
- Masked faces decreased blink rate with characteristic "stare"
- Dry eye decreased blink rate
- Light sensitivity (photophobia)
- Blurred vision
- Oscillopsia
- Difficulty with spatial perception
- Apraxia of eyelid opening can open with fingers but not by neural command
- Blepharospasm
- Visual hallucinations
- Freezing in narrow spaces hallways, thought to be based on the visual system

Blink Rate and Dry Eye

- The ocular surface needs to be uniformly moist to provide consistent and clear vision
- Decreased blink rate allows for increased evaporation and dry eye
- Treatments:
 - Artificial tears
 - Humidifier
 - *Ointments*
 - WarmCompresses
 - Sleep goggles
 - Punctal plugs
 - Prescription dry eye drops

Dry eye and medications

- 55% of Parkinson's disease patients report ocular symptoms having moderate to severe effect on their quality of life
- In those that suffer from dry eye, depression and anxiety are 3x higher in those with dry eye than those without
- Antiparkinsonian medciations associated with dry eye due to anticholinergic side effects:

Benzhexol

Pramipexole

Levodopa

Dry Eye

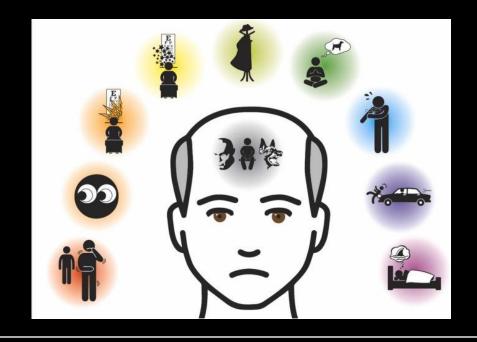


Dry Eye Approach

Early stage	Moderate stage	Severe stage
• Patient education	Early-stage treatment• +	Moderate-stage treatment• +
• Elimination of environmental factors (e.g., air pollutants, hot and cold	• Anti-inflammatory agents (topical steroids or	• Oral anti-inflammatory agents (short-term corticosteroids
temperatures, and alcohol)	cyclosporin)	or tetracycline)
• Elimination of precipitating medications (diuretics, beta-blockers,	• Supplementation with omega-3 fatty acids	Mucolytic agents
antihistamines, tricyclic antidepressants, antipsychotics, and	• Punctal plugs	Autologous serum tears
antiparkinsonian drugs)	Moisture chamber glasses	• Therapeutic contact lenses
• Artificial tear substitutes (cellulose ethers, carbomers, polyvinyl		Permanent punctal occlusion
alcohol, sodium hyaluronate, and povidone)		• Surgical intervention (tarsorrhaphy)
• Eyelid therapy (warm compresses and eyelid hygiene)		ack
• Correction of eyelid abnormalities (if present)		edba
• Treatment of contributing factors (e.g., blepharitis)		Fe
• Treatment of underlying systemic disease		

Visual Hallucinations

- 40% of patients with Parkinson's Disease can have visual hallucinations
- Alterations in GABA neurotransmitter has been associated with visual hallucinations, thought to be involved with signaling dysfunction to the occipital cortex



Nystagmus/oscillopsia

• <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXOaRGNnijU</u>

Apraxia of eyelid opening

- <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m03h_LrBMUI&t=16s</u>
- https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=3feead5a8523d144&sxsrf=ADLYWIKymeS85Tobe 2TOEfgVimbLJ-

ipJg:l736699247657&q=apraxia+of+eyelid+opening&udm=7&fbs=AEQNm0Aa4sjWe7Rqy 52pFwRj0UkWd8nb0JfsBGGB5IQQ06L5JyJJclJuzBPll2qJyPx7ESIflS9KobXMZccIxNeTI A6IHPsOrb2ailWCtrbH230596ngvG3aiF2DARqhotSOiDc0znUQrVikpZfQYCh6WrDVcjR mLIFgf_AHuN_uWb_qf6sIIIUCBRB9R8WT20LEFfqDlkNO-MxXFTQY85V4CGbza0C5_g&sa=X&sqi=2&ved=2ahUKEwjNIfPtzPCKAxW9q4kEHQnC KYwQtKgLegQIEhAB&biw=1077&bih=600&dpr=2#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:21579a94,vid:z-2kCLESRLE,st:0

Masked face

• https://www.pbs.org/video/the-mask-26524/

Michael J Fox

• <u>https://ew.com/movies/still-michael-j-fox-documentary-trailer/</u>





Questions?