



SCIENTIFIC REVIEW PARKINSON'S DISEASE



Parkinson's disease (PD) is a progressive neurological condition. PD develops when cells in a part of the brain, substantia nigra, stop working properly and are lost over time. The brain cells in substantia nigra produce a chemical called dopamine. Dopamine is involved when messages are sent to parts of the brain coordinating movement. These parts of the brain cannot function properly, and without the dopamine producing nerve cells, onset of symptoms may appear.

Some of the PD symptoms are:

- motor function symptoms, such as slowness of motion, stiffness, and tremor
- non-motor symptoms, such as problems with swallowing, speaking, and bladder and bowel function are also common
- anxiety is also an issue for many

In neurological disease the messages between the brain and parts of the digestive system results in slower passage of food between the intestinal tract, reduced sensations in the back passage and control of anus, which can present with constipation and faecal incontinence.

These symptoms may be further exacerbated by impaired sensations, reduced mobility/balance, lower limb dysfunction, and recognition of symptoms.

Bowel Problems

Constipation is the most common bowel problem for people with PD. Prolonged colonic transit time due to reduced mobility, slowness of movements and rigid muscles. Difficulties to maintain a healthy lifestyle and staying active can increase the risk of constipation.

Where PD affects the person's ability to chew and swallow food, it can be difficult to eat a diet with enough fibre content to help keep the stools soft. Swallowing fluids may also be difficult which in turn will impact on the stool consistency. Medications, both PD drugs and antidepressants, can make the constipation worse.

The emotional and psychological impacts of PD compounded with symptoms of bowel dysfunction have a massive impact on confidence and quality of life.

At Wellspect we develop innovative continence care solutions that change people's lives. We are committed to inspire our users to build self-confidence and independence as well as good health and well-being. We have been leading the industry for over 30 years with our product brands LoFric® and Navina™. We create reliable and user-friendly products for bladder and bowel management with as little environmental impact as possible. We passionately strive to become climate neutral and work closely together with users and healthcare professionals who constantly inspire us to improve our products and services in a sustainable way, now and for the future.

Wellspect. A Real Difference.

For more information about our products and our initiative Advancing Continence Care Together (ACCT), please visit [Wellspect.com](https://www.wellspect.com).

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