

Ontario Long-Term Care Clinician Conference 2023

# **Approach to non-motor symptoms of Parkinson disease**

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# Disclosures- GM

- No current or past relationships with commercial entities
- No relationship with commercial interests.

## Speaking fees/ Honorariums:

- Received a speaker's fee from OLTCC for this learning activity

# DISCLOSURES - JL

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Membership on advisory boards or speakers' bureaus	Caregiver-Centered Care Physician Education Advisory	Guide the co-design process for a Caregiver-centered care education module and resource for family medicine (small honorarium)
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# Commercial Support Disclosure

- This program has received no financial or in-kind support from any commercial or other organization

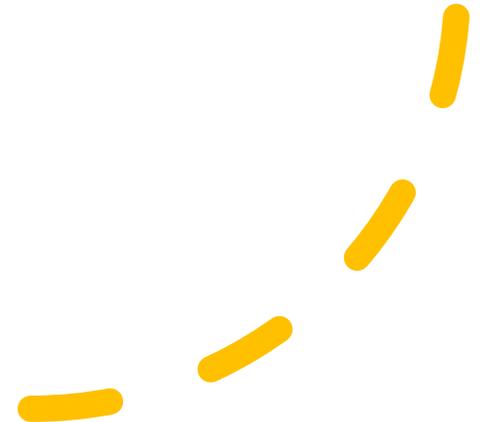
# Objectives

- Recognize the importance and impact of non-motor symptoms in PD
- Be able to screen for and diagnose common non-motor symptoms
- Be able to manage the "low-hanging fruits" in your daily practice
  - Constipation & Urinary symptoms
  - Orthostatic hypotension
  - Sleep disorders (REM disorder/RLS)
  - Depression/anxiety
  - Bone health

Did you  
know....

Non-motor symptoms of Parkinson's disease (PD) contribute to severe disability and impair quality of life. Which of the following symptoms is not related to PD?

- a) Mood problem
- b) Psychosis
- c) Orthostatic hypotension with or without supine hypertension
- d) Frequent nocturia
- e) Constipation
- f) All are related to PD



# Parkinson Disease

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Fastest growing neurological disease, affects 2-3% of the population with age > 65

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Globally, the number of people with PD will double from 6.9 M in 2015 to 14.2 M in 2040.

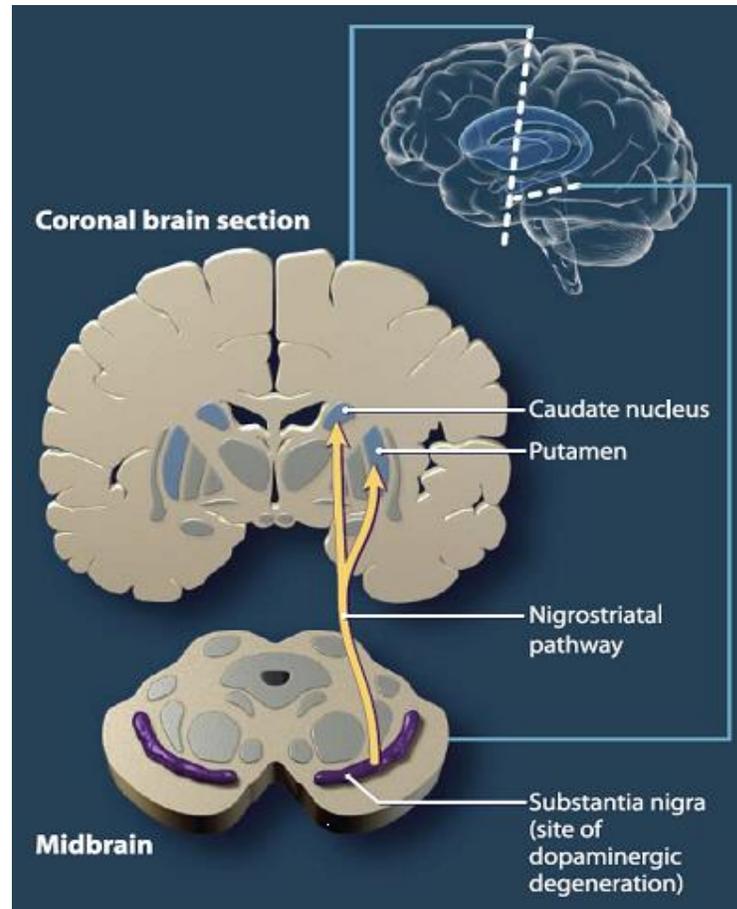
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The Brain Disorders in Ontario Report (2015): 82% of people with Parkinson's disease (PD) were 65 years and older.

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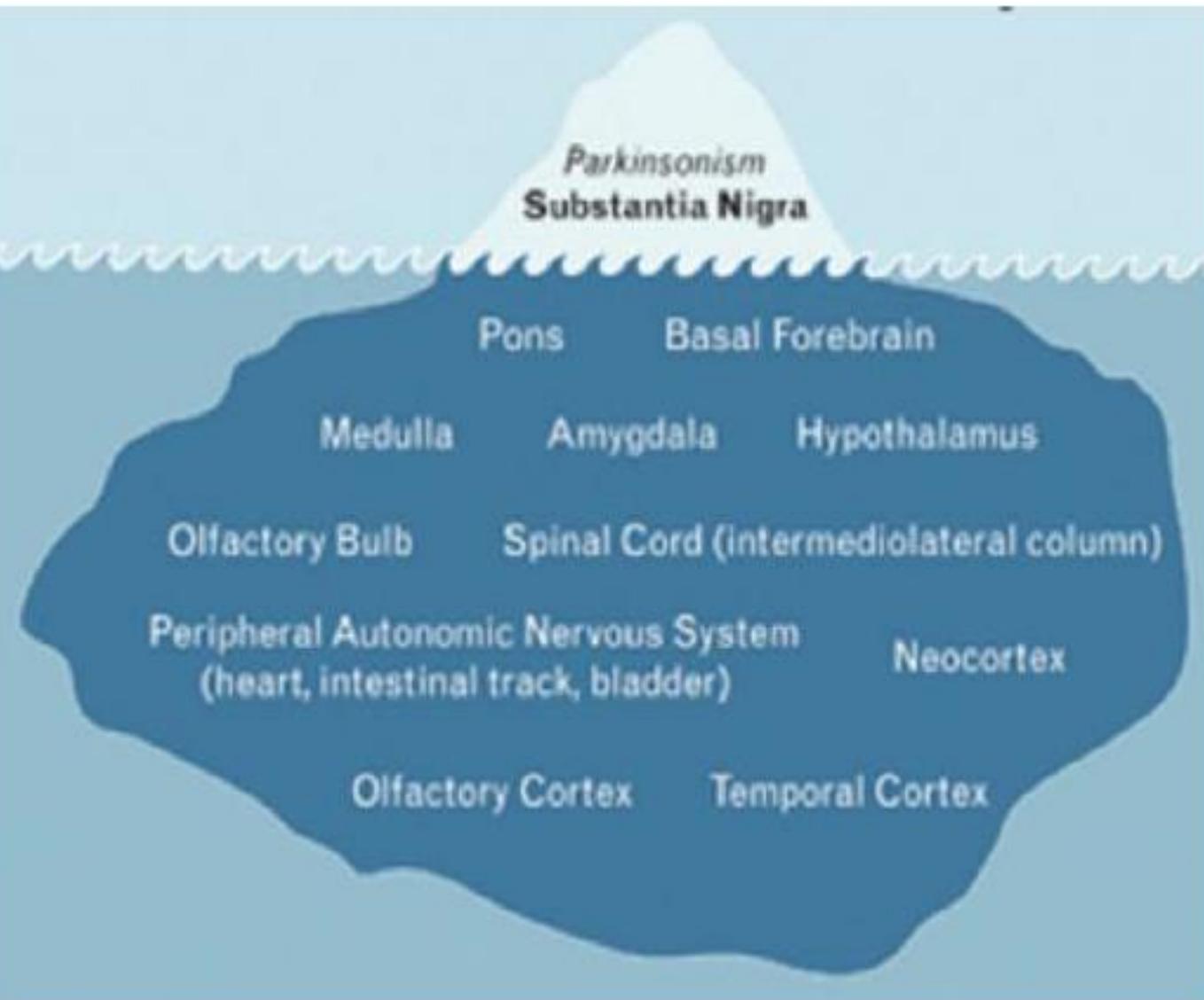
The number of Canadian seniors with PD is expected to more than double from 71,500 to 148,800 by 2031.

# Pathophysiology of PD



- ▶ Progressive degeneration of dopamine producing neurons in substantia nigra
- ▶ By the time motor symptoms emerge, 70% - 80% of neurons are lost
- ▶ Deposition of alpha-synuclein in central, autonomic, peripheral nervous system → non motor symptoms

# Complex disease



Langston, Ann Neurol, 2006

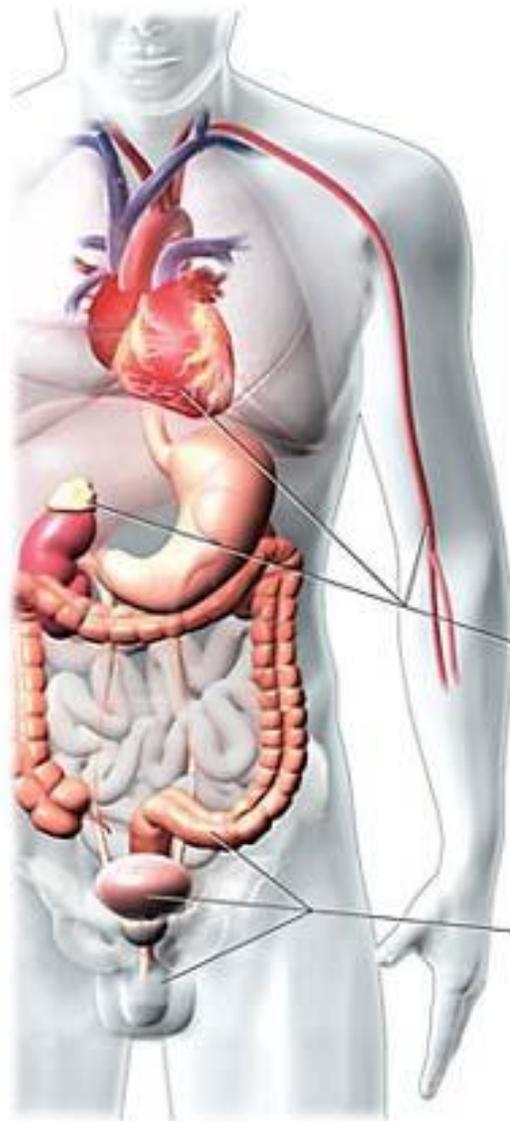
## Motor

- Bradykinesia
- Rigidity
- Postural instability
- Tremor

## Non-motor

- Cognition
- Personality
- Pain
- Fatigue
- Sensoric
- Continenence
- Sleep
- Sexual
- Behavioral

Ann Neurol. 2006 Apr;59(4):591-6



**Cognitive impairment**  
Subcortical nuclei, limbic regions, cerebral cortex

**Visual hallucinations**  
Subcortical nuclei (e.g. amygdala), ventral temporal lobe, other cortical regions

**Mood disorders**  
Brainstem nuclei (RpN, LC), mesolimbic dopaminergic system

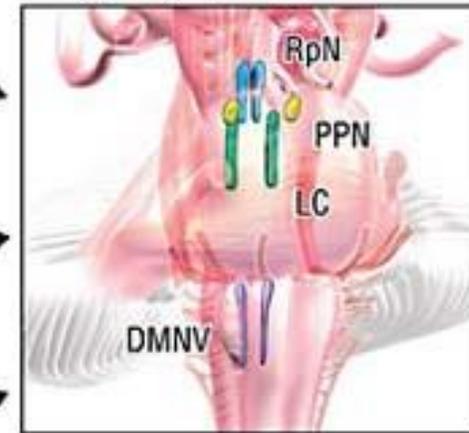
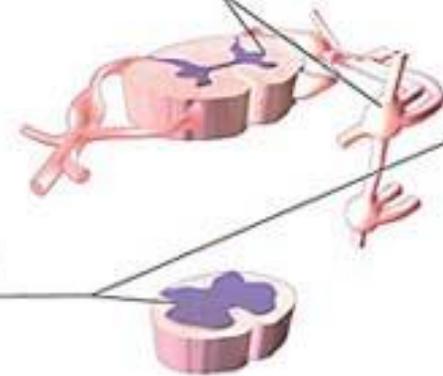
**Orthostasis**  
ANS (DMNV, cardiac, vasomotor, spinal cord sympathetic nuclei, sympathetic ganglia, adrenal glands)

**Constipation, urine, and erectile dysfunction**  
ANS (DMNV, visceral plexus, spinal cord parasympathetic nuclei)

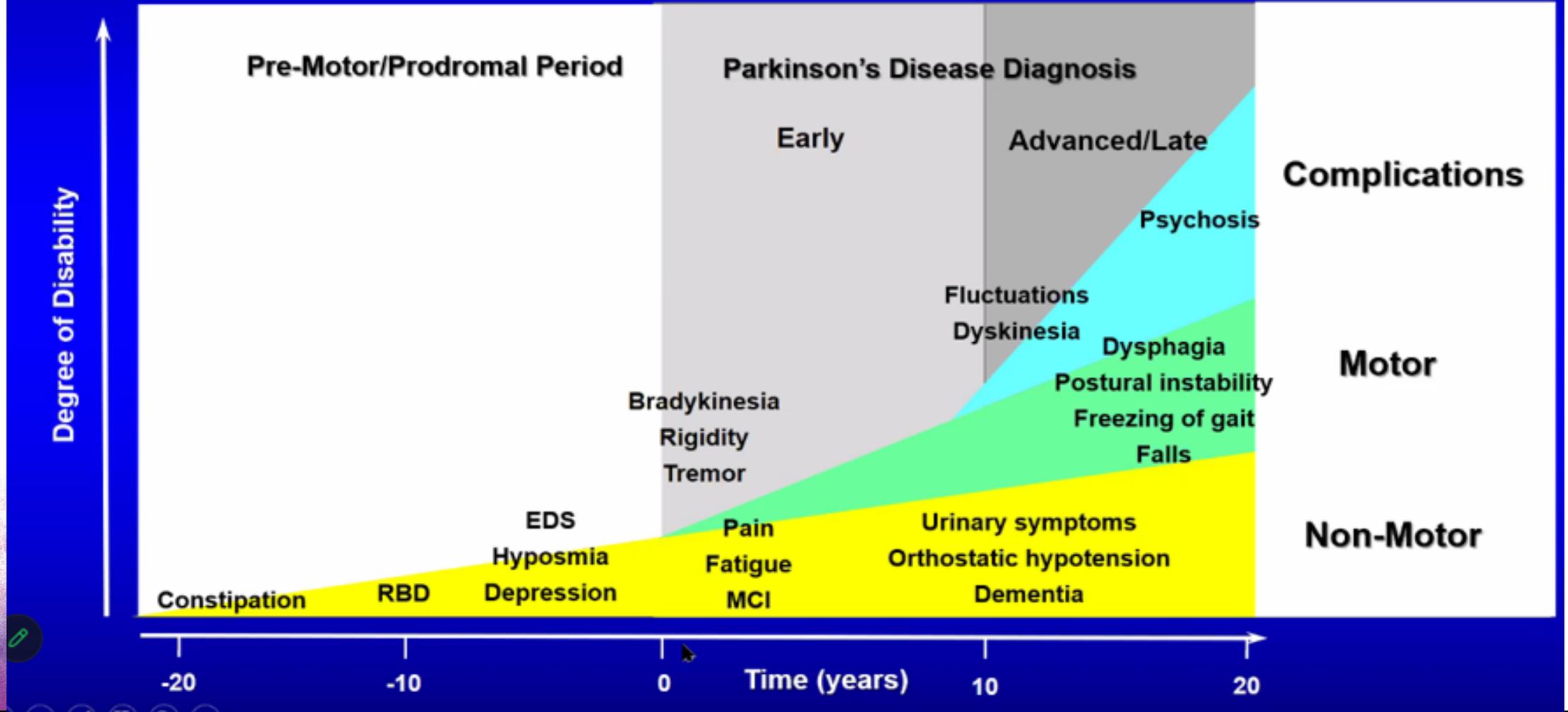
**Olfactory deficit**  
Olfactory bulb, anterior olfactory nucleus, cortical nucleus of amygdala

**Pain**  
Spinal cord dorsal horn, brainstem nuclei, thalamus, mesolimbic system

**Sleep disorders (RBD, hypersomnolence)**  
Brainstem nuclei (PPN, LC, RpN), hypothalamus



# The Complexity of Parkinson's Disease



# What can Family Physicians do in PD?



Diagnose parkinsonism, rule out 'red flags'



Initiate therapy if functional impairment and long wait



Refer to OT, PT, SLP and home care, support groups



Longitudinal FU and support

Treat "low hanging fruits" of PD:

- 1.CONSTIPATION
- 2.ORTHOSTATIC HYPOTENSION
- 3.SLEEP DISORDER
- 4.MOOD DISORDERS
- 5.BONE HEALTH

# Non Motor Features - Prevalence

## ▶ Early:

- ▶ Hyposmia: 25 - 97%
- ▶ Fatigue: 60%
- ▶ Depression: 25%
- ▶ RBD: 30%
- ▶ Constipation: 30%

## ▶ Late:

- ▶ Dysphagia: 50% (15y)
- ▶ Freezing/falls: 90% (15y)
- ▶ Anxiety/dep: 55%
- ▶ Orthostasis: 15%
- ▶ \*Urinary urge: 35%
- ▶ \*Nocturia: 35%
- ▶ \*\*Urine incontinence: 33%
- ▶ Sexual dysfunction: 20%
- ▶ Cognitive impairment/dementia: 80% (10y +)

\*Connelly, Lang. JAMA 2014; 311(16)1670-1683;

\*\*Ruffion et al. Neuroepidemiology 2013;41:146-155

# Impact of non-motor symptoms

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## **Dominant reason for declining quality of life and function**

(Poewe W. 2006; Seppi et al. 2011, Weintraub et al. 2004)

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## **Often underdiagnosed and undertreated in routine neurology assessments**

(Muzerengi 2006, Shulman 2002, Chaudhuri 2006, Martinez-Martin et al. 2018)

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## **Cause significant caregiver burden**

(Weintraub 2008, Oguh 2013, Schrag 2006, Campenhausen 2011)

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## **Increase risk of hospitalization and poor outcomes**

(Gerlach 2011)

Can J Neurol Sci. 2021; 00: 1–10

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

COPYRIGHT © THE AUTHOR(S), 2020. PUBLISHED BY CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS ON BEHALF OF THE CANADIAN JOURNAL OF NEUROLOGICAL SCIENCES INC.

# **Emergency Room Visit Prevention for Older Patients with Parkinsonism in a Geriatric Clinic**

*Joyce W. Lee, Greta Mah, Sumeet Kalia, Janis Miyasaki*

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# Patient Characteristics

337 calls were received re: 114 patients

81% calls from caregivers

Male : Female 58% : 42 %

Avg Age 80 (61-95)

# of Medical Co-morbidities 9 (2-19)

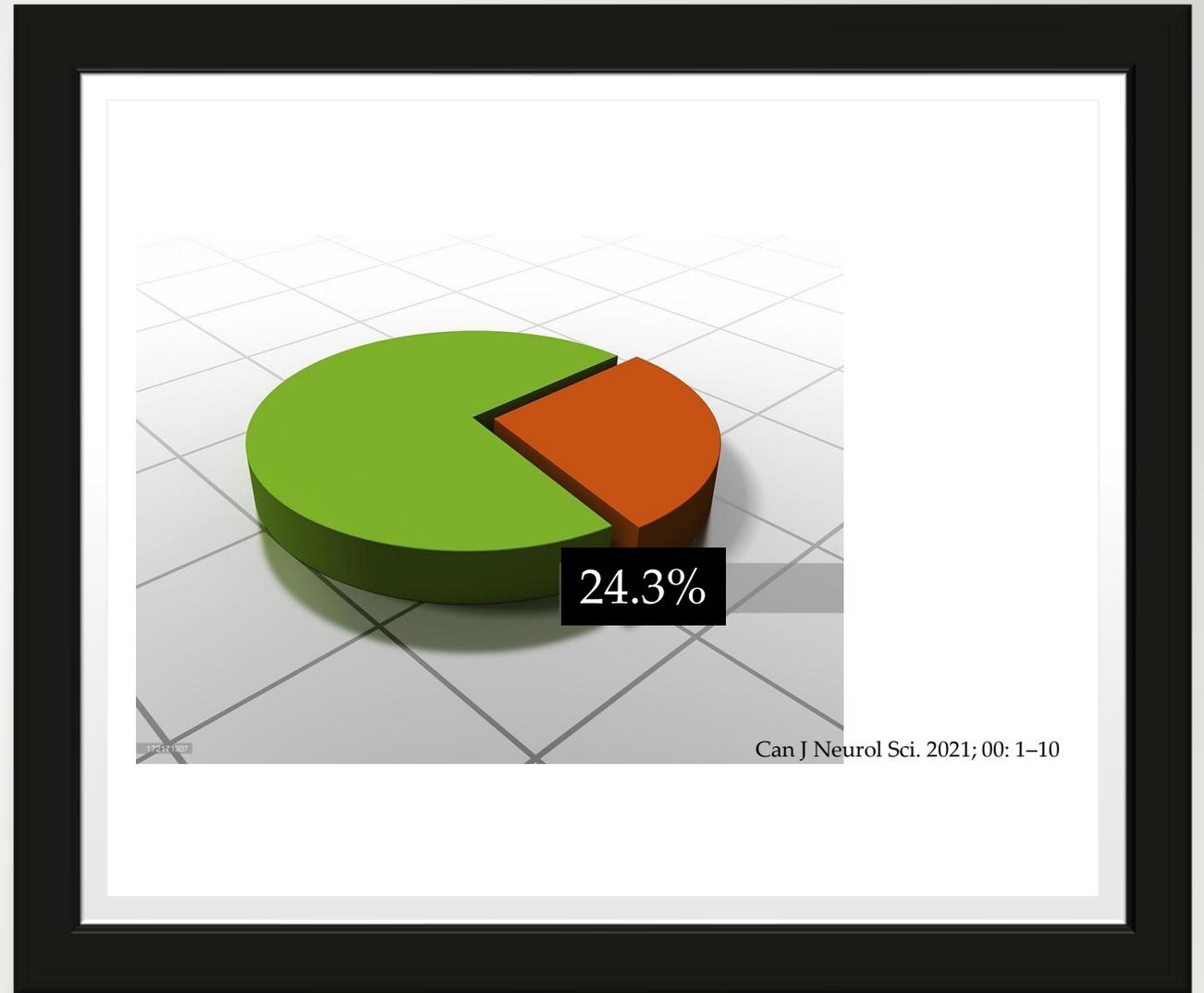
(50% dementia, 61% anxiety/depression)

Avg UPDRS (Part III) 34/108

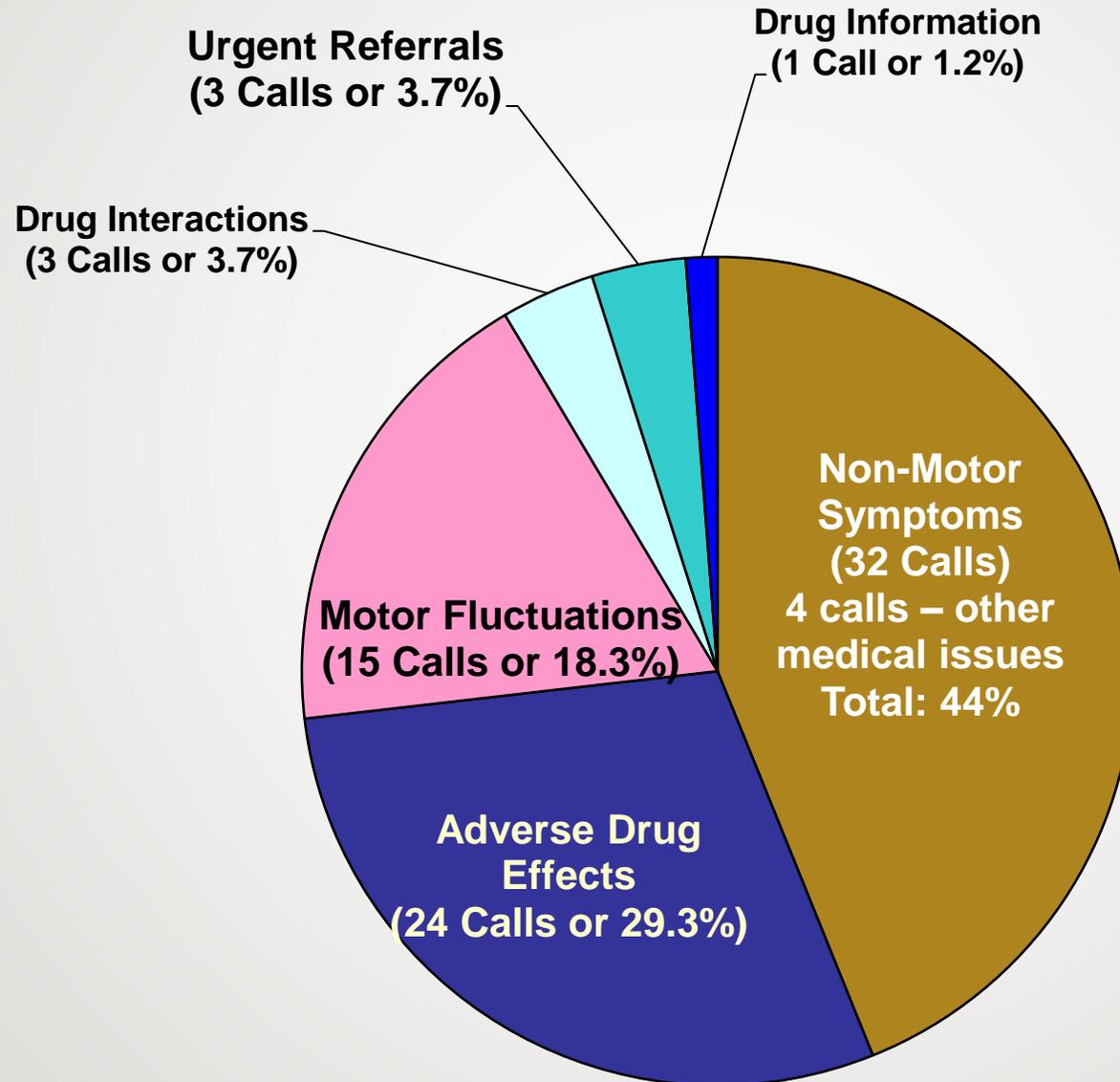
Avg Duration of PD (Years) 9 (1-29)

82 of 337 calls with  
intention to visit ED-  
“crisis calls”

-almost half of all  
users had an  
intention to visit ED  
in 1 year



# Reasons for Calls with intention to visit ED



**Distribution of 32 crisis calls related to non-motor symptoms:**

Psychosis: 15 cases

Hypotension with dizziness: 6 cases

Pain: 5 cases

Anxiety: 2 cases (1 of the 2 cases resulted in ED visit)

Insomnia: 2 cases

Depression: 1 case

Constipation: 1 case

# PD is a New Geriatric Syndrome due to Age, Frailty and Complexity

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Hospitalization risk is substantial with poor outcomes and high costs (1-2)

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Geriatric Parkinson's Care and timely telephone intervention by a Geriatrics Pharmacist is effective in preventing ED visits /hospitalization (93% averted) (3)

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Geriatric Parkinson's Care was highly acceptable to users with great feedback from referral sources (FPs, neurologists) (3)

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Expert, evidence-based team-based rehab is an essential part of PD care, which must be performed in concert with medication and symptom management (4)

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1. Woodford H, Walker R. Emergency hospital admissions in idiopathic Parkinson's disease. *Mov Disord.* 2005;20(9):1104–108. 12.
2. Klein C, Prokhorov T, Miniovitz A, Dobronevsky E, Rabey JM. Admission of Parkinsonian patients to a neurological ward in a community hospital. *J Neural Transm.* 2009;116(11):1509–12. doi: 10.1007/s00702-009-0302-1
3. Lee, J., Mah, G., Kalia, S., & Miyasaki, J. (2021). Emergency Room Visit Prevention for Older Patients with Parkinsonism in a Geriatric Clinic. *Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences*, 48(5), 666-675. doi:10.1017/cjn.2020.253
4. Grimes D, Fitzpatrick M, Gordon J, et al. Canadian guideline for Parkinson disease. *CMAJ.* 2019;191(36):E989–1004

# Canadian Guidelines on Parkinson's Disease (CGPD)2019

Grading scheme from NICE, EFNS and SIGN:

- ▶ Level A - High quality meta-analyses, or RCTs with low bias
- ▶ Level B - High quality case-control or cohort studies with very low bias, and high causality
- ▶ Level C - Case-control or cohort with low bias and moderate causality
- ▶ Level D - Case reports; Expert opinion
- ▶ GPP - Recommended best practice based on guideline development group

Each patient experiences different non-motor symptoms



**Treatment has to be individualized!**



# Parkinson Disease: M-A-N

## Motor Symptoms:

### Early

Slow Movement ----->

Tremor Stiff Muscles Shuffling Gait

### Moderate

Slower movement

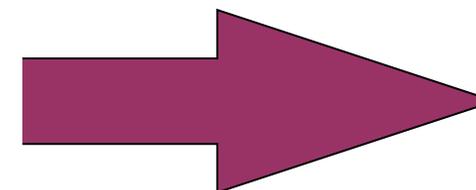
Axial symptoms

### Advanced

Freezing of Gait, Falls

Postural Instability

Swallowing Difficulty



## Autonomic Dysfunction:

Bowel: Constipation (pre-motor)

- slow GI motility, GERD

Bladder: Nocturia, OAB

BP: Orthostatic Hypotension

## Neuropsychiatric Symptoms:

Sleep disorders: RLS, RBD, OSA

Depression and/or Anxiety

Dementia, psychosis

RBD (often preceding PD by median of 14 years)

# Case 1: Margaret

79 y.o. widow, retired accountant

Admitted to LTC 1 year ago after a fall with R hip fracture with post-operative complications of delirium, urinary retention, mobility and functional decline.

Needs assistance for ADLs except feeding, mobilizes with a walker short distance with PT assistance.

PMH: PD x 9 years, HTN and T2DM



# Case 1: Margaret's medications

1. levodopa/carbidopa 100/25 1.5 tablets po qid and 1 tablet po hs
2. Levocarb CR 100/25 qhs
3. acetaminophen 650mg qid
4. perindopril 8 mg qam
5. bisoprolol 2.5mg qam
6. metformin 500 mg po bid
7. empagliflozin 10mg daily \*
8. Vit D 1000iu daily
9. Quetiapine 12.5 mg hs (started in hospital during delirium)
10. Ondansetron 4 mg q8h prn

# Case 1: Margaret

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Complains sometimes levodopa doses don't work

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Bristol type 2 BM every 3-4 days, on Psyllium

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Bladder: nocturia 3 times per night disturbs sleep

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BP: 109/69 HR 65 sit, 100/65 HR 70 stand

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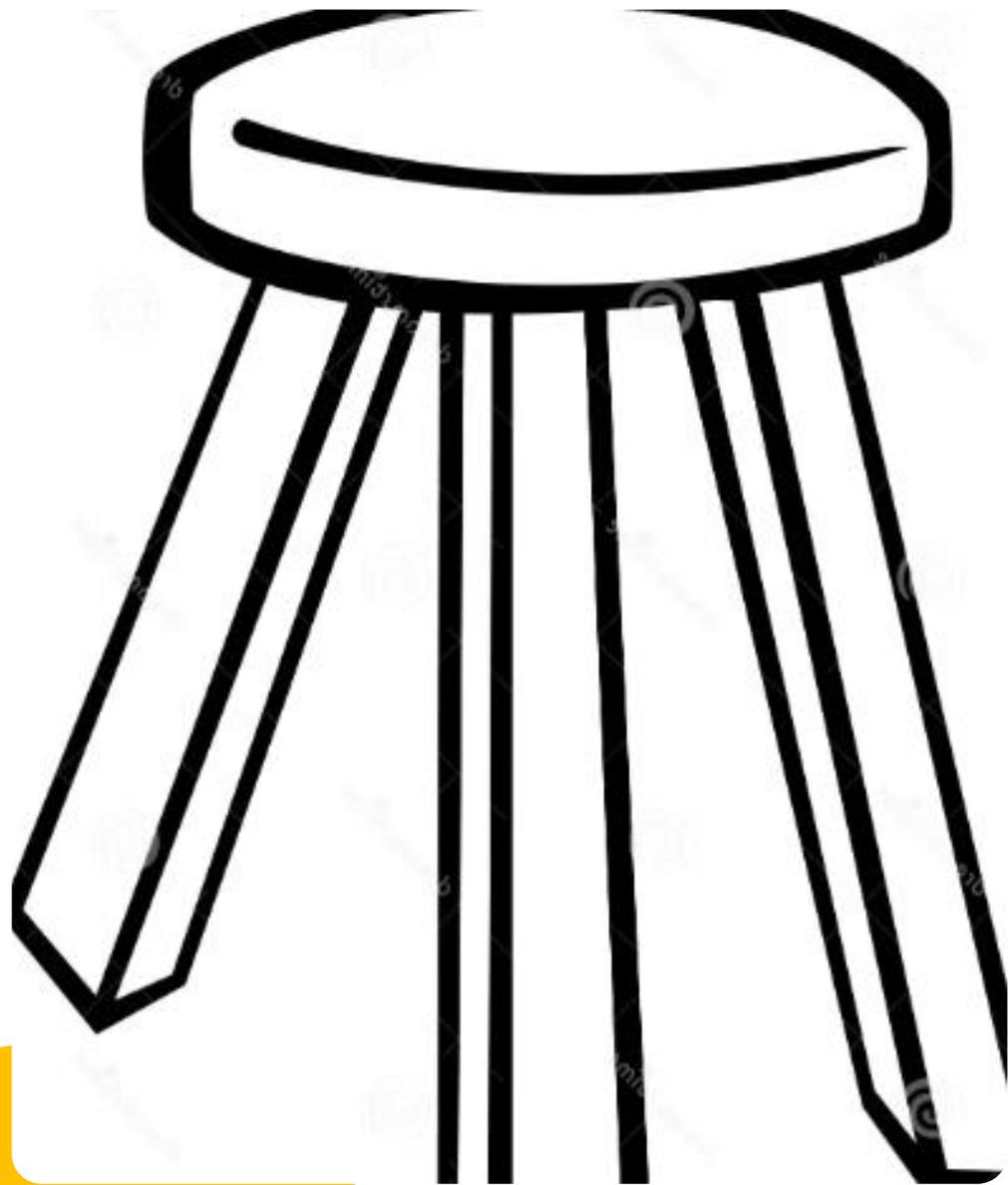
Mood – OK, but tired, still participates in exercise. Embarrassed by her drooling. MoCA 20/30 Dec 2022

# Constipation – simple but SERIOUS in PD

## BRISTOL STOOL CHART

	Type 1	Separate hard lumps	<b>SEVERE CONSTIPATION</b>
	Type 2	Lumpy and sausage like	<b>MILD CONSTIPATION</b>
	Type 3	A sausage shape with cracks in the surface	<b>NORMAL</b>
	Type 4	Like a smooth, soft sausage or snake	<b>NORMAL</b>
	Type 5	Soft blobs with clear-cut edges	<b>LACKING FIBRE</b>
	Type 6	Mushy consistency with ragged edges	<b>MILD DIARRHEA</b>
	Type 7	Liquid consistency with no solid pieces	<b>SEVERE DIARRHEA</b>

- Poor oral intake, dehydration → orthostatic hypotension, falls
- Poor levodopa absorption and worse motor symptoms/fluctuations
- Urinary retention and frequency/incontinence
- Volvulus
- Delirium
- AIM FOR AT LEAST 1 BRISTOL 3 – 4 STOOL DAILY/EVERY OTHER DAY



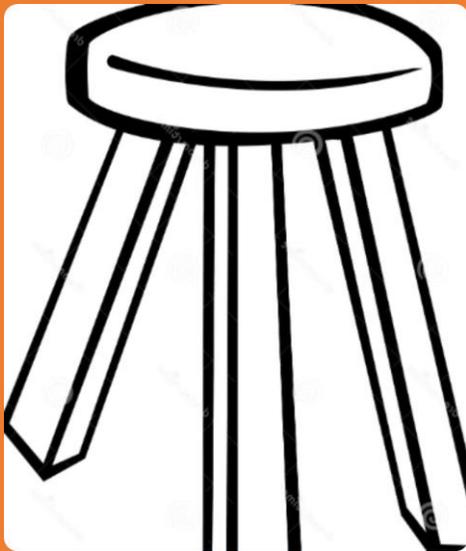
Constipation – the 3-  
legged stool

Texture

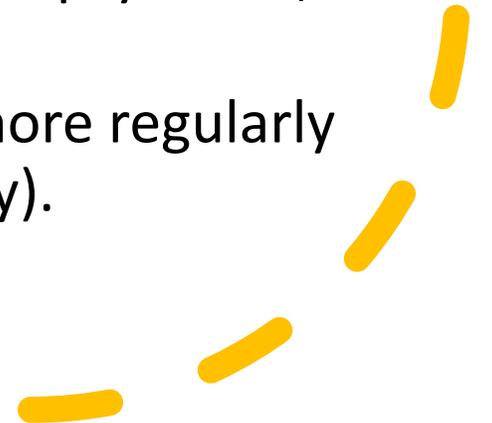
Motility

Core Strength

# Constipation



- General: Fluids, fiber, exercise, stop culprit meds
- TEXTURE:
  - PEG, lactulose, fluids
  - NO PSYLLIUM – ineffective due to poor fluid intake and GI motility in older patients with PD
- MOTILITY (LOW):
  - Disease states – DM, PD/parkinsonism, sedentary
  - Drugs – opioids, anticholinergic, antipsychotic, anti-nauseants
  - stimulants should be prescribed more regularly (e.g., four times weekly, up to daily).



# Nocturia/ Urinary frequency

## Assessment:

- Post void residual + assess for UTI
- Constipated? - Treat
- On diuretic? Cholinesterase inhibitor?  
Caffeine?

## Management:

- **Tx constipation**
- Timed urination, avoid caffeine, fluids in evening
- Safety: offer options of commode, urinal, diaper, condom catheter

# Overactive Bladder Syndrome in PD

- About 1/3 of patients
- Treatment options:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> choice: **Mirabegron** 25mg qhs, may increase to 50mg qhs after 1-2 months (unless moderate liver disease or renal impairment eGFR < 30 mL/min) – **watch for uncontrolled HT or AF**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> choice: **Fesoterodine** 4 – 8 mg qhs (least anticholinergic & BBB penetration; tested in "vulnerable elderly patients" - no short term cognitive side effect), monitor constipation



Tx Plan for  
Margaret:

## Constipation

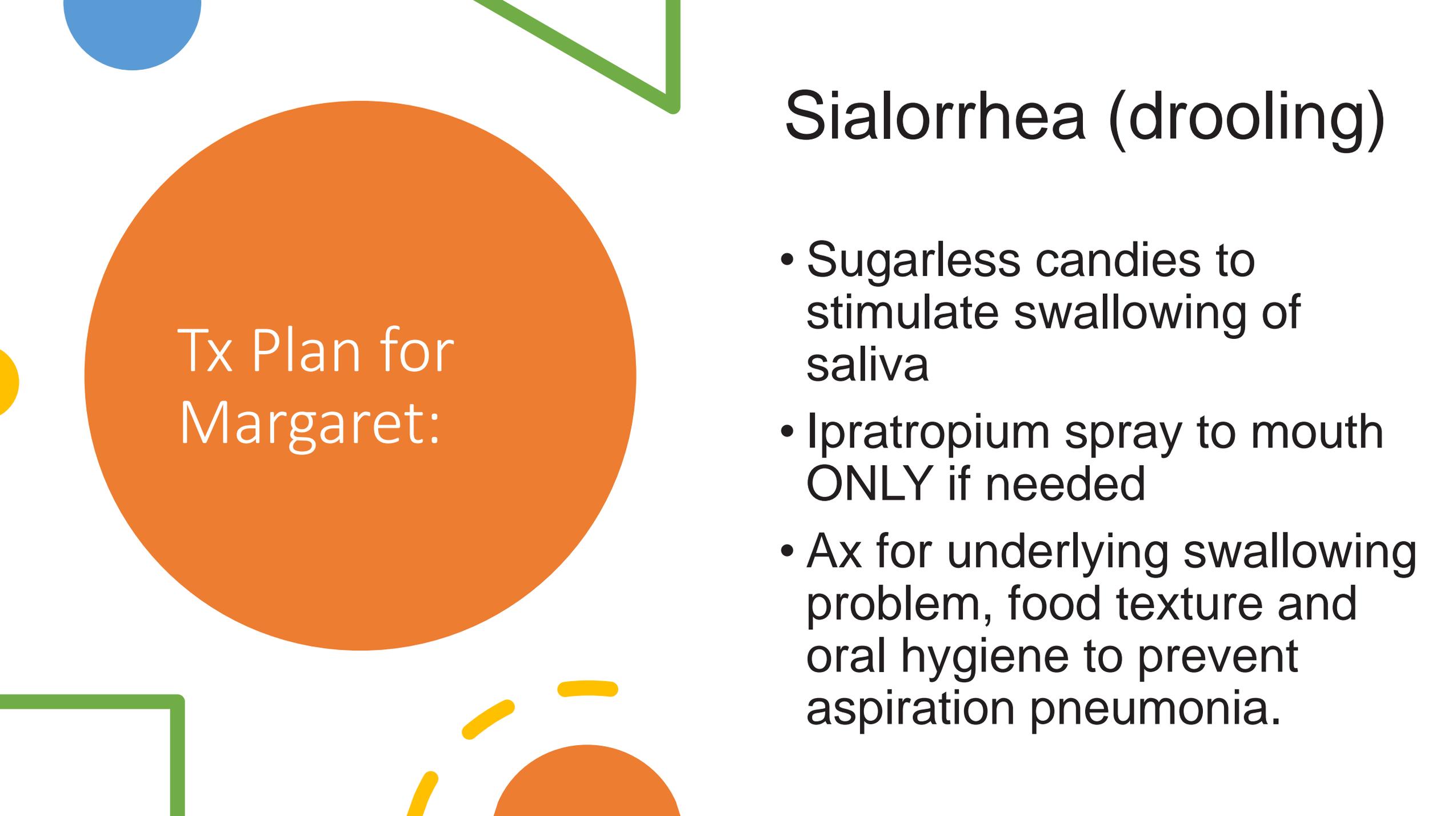
- Trial D/C quetiapine
  - D/C ondansetron PRN
  - D/C Psyllium
  - PEG 3350 8.5g daily
  - Senokot 1 – 2 tab qhs or 2 tab 4 times per week
  - Fluids + exercise
- 



## Tx Plan for Margaret:

### Urinary Sx:

- Tx constipation and see what happens
  - PVR initially 450 cc → 50 cc after better BM
  - Nocturia still troublesome?
    - D/C empagliflozin (diuretic)
    - Mirabegron 25 mg po hs trial
- 



## Tx Plan for Margaret:

# Sialorrhea (drooling)

- Sugarless candies to stimulate swallowing of saliva
- Ipratropium spray to mouth **ONLY** if needed
- Ax for underlying swallowing problem, food texture and oral hygiene to prevent aspiration pneumonia.

# Unexplained falls in the past few months

- Feeling weak & tired at times, not dizzy
- **BP (AM after breakfast) sit: 110/69 HR 63, BP stand 90/64 HR 65**
- **BW: HbA1C: 5.8%, CR 60, 25-OH vitamin D 55**
- Contributing factors to falls in PD:
  - OH, postural instability, freezing of gait and cognitive decline
  - DM and PD increase risk of autonomic dysfunction and OH
- She may not tolerate the same doses of antihypertensives as before.

# Orthostatic hypotension

## Practical maneuver:

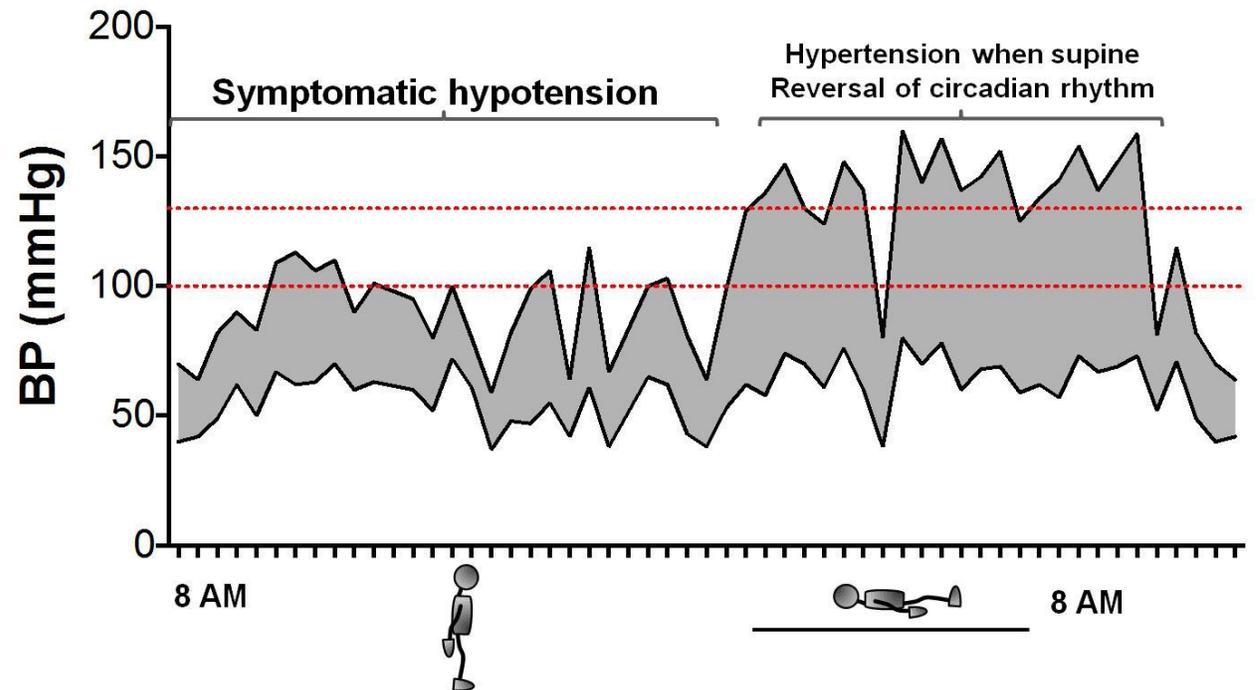
- BP and HR sitting, then standing (immediate and after two minutes) should be part of the routine examination of a PD patient
  - **SBP drop  $\geq 15$  mmHg or a DBP drop  $\geq 7$  mmHg**
  - **best optimizes sensitivity and specificity of sit-to-stand test \***
- Watch for post-prandial OH
- A lack of adequate compensatory heart rate increase with blood pressure drop ( $< 10$  to  $15$  beats per minute) is suggestive of neurogenic OH.

\*Shaw, Brett et al. J Hypertens. 2017 May ; 35(5): 1019–1025

# OH/Supine HTN

- Check BP at night or before waking up while in supine position to assess for supine HTN
- Supine HTN increases nocturesis
- OH – falls, cognitive decline

## Pronounced BP Variability



FDA website

# Orthostatic hypotension



## Medications which exacerbate OH:

- Dopaminergic agents, antihypertensives,  $\alpha$ -blockers,  $\beta$ -blockers, SGLT-2 inhibitors, diuretic and tricyclic antidepressants
- BP meds should be reduced and given at bedtime to prevent supine hypertension and reduce impact on daytime BP

## Non-pharmacological measures:

- Avoid alcohol & dehydration or warm environment.
- Increase fluid and salt intake in AM, raise head of the bed by 4 inches to  $\downarrow$  nocturia & supine HT.
- Apply abdominal binder before getting up in the morning to maintain splanchnic circulation – remove at bedtime
- Pump legs – work on leg muscles

# Case 1: Margaret's medications

1. levodopa/carbidopa 100/25 1.5 tablets po qid and 1 tablet po hs
2. Levocarb CR 100/25 qhs
3. acetaminophen 650mg qid
4. **perindopril 8 mg qam**
5. **bisoprolol 2.5mg qam**
6. metformin 500 mg po bid
7. **empagliflozin 10mg daily**
8. Vit D 1000iu daily
9. Quetiapine – stopped recently
10. PEG 3350 8.5 g daily
11. Senokot 2 tab po hs

# Treatment for OH

If medication adjustment & nonpharmacologic measures are insufficient:

1. First choice: Midodrine 2.5 mg to 5 mg q 3.5 to 4 hours; eg, 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, 4:00 pm (no lying down for 4 hours after a dose) Last dose taken at least 4 hours before bedtime to prevent supine HTN
2. Fludrocortisone 0.05-0.1mg qam
  - less effective than midodrine as monotherapy.
  - Higher dose: 0.2mg could cause hypokalemia and peripheral edema and exacerbate supine hypertension.
  - Contraindicated in CHF/CRF
3. Pyridostigmine 30 mg to 60 mg tid - modest benefit in OH without exacerbating supine HT
  - Side effects of diarrhea, nausea, and sialorrhea.
4. AVOID DDAVP – risk of hyponatremia

# Bone health in PD

- **Patients with PD have 2x risk of osteoporotic fractures and 3x risk of hip fracture (1)**
- **3M primary care patients in UK**
  - **Females with PD have 2x risk of hip fractures**
  - **Males with PD have 3x risk of hip fractures (Invernizzi et al., 2009, Sato et al., 2001) (2)**
- **Vitamin D levels are lower in PD subjects than those in healthy subjects (3, 4)**
- **Conventional risk scores (FRAX, CAROC) underestimate risk in PD**
- **NO DRUG HOLIDAY for PD patients with hx of falls**

1. Pouwels S, Bazelier MT, Boer A et al. Risk of fracture in patients with Parkinson's disease. *Osteoporos Int* 2013; 24:2283–90
2. Hippisley-Cox J, Coupland C. Derivation and validation of updated QFracture algorithm to predict risk of osteoporotic fracture in primary care in the United Kingdom: prospective open cohort study. *BMJ* 2012; 344: e3427.
3. Peterson et al. 2013
4. Rimmelzwaan et al. 2016

# • Tx Plan for Margaret

BP (AM after breakfast) sit: 110/69 HR 63, BP stand 90/64 HR 65

BW: HbA1C: 5.8%, eGFR 65 , 25-OH vitamin D 55

## OH:

- D/C Empagliflozin & Bisoprolol (no indication for BB)
- Reduce Perindopril to 4mg and change time to qhs
- If not sufficient, d/c Perindopril & add Midodrine
- Wear abdominal binder before getting up

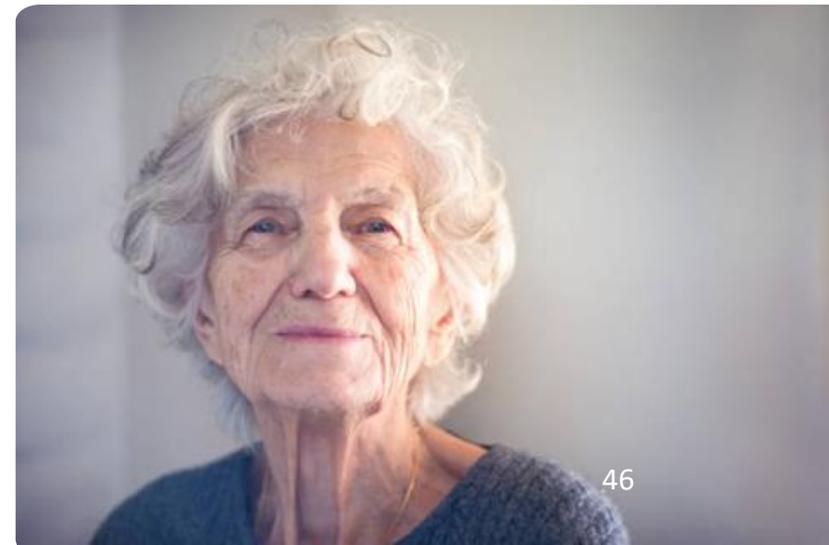
## Bone health:

- Increase Vit D to 2000iu daily with calcium rich diet
- Add risedronate DR 35 mg weekly



# Next few months...

- She slept better with much less nocturia
- No longer having frequent falls, but her BP at night and early morning became much higher. She complained of headaches occasionally
- BP 6am lying: 175/98 HR 78
- BP (10AM) sit: 117/69 HR 71, BP stand 102/67 HR 72



# Supine Hypertension

- If one or both of the following after 5 minutes of lying down:
  - a systolic blood pressure of  $\geq 140$  mm Hg
  - a diastolic blood pressure of  $\geq 90$  mm Hg
- About 50% of patients with neurogenic orthostatic hypotension also have supine HT.
- Symptoms are: headache, nocturia, worse orthostatic hypotension in the morning
- Potential long-term risks: kidney problems, left ventricular hypertrophy, stroke, cognitive impairment

## Management of supine HTN with short acting agents

Drug	Approximate Dose Equivalence
• Ramipril	2.5 mg daily
• Benazapril	10 mg daily
• Captopril	12.5 mg three times daily
• Cilazapril	2.5 mg daily
• Enalapril maleate	5 mg daily
• Fosinopril	10 mg daily
• Lisinopril	10 mg daily
• Quinapril	10 mg daily
• Perindopril	2 mg daily

### Treatment Options:

- Losartan 25 mg -50mg po hs
- Captopril 6.25-25mg po qhs
- Nitro-patch 0.2 mg -0.4mg qhs  
(remove at least 30min before getting up)

### Tx plan for Margaret:

- switch perindopril to captopril 25 mg qhs, monitor lying BP before getting up, BP sitting/standing after breakfast)

## Case 2 Michael 78 years retired plumber

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- He moved to LTC after wife died 2 years ago – could not manage on own.
- PD x 2 yr - **Levodopa/Carbidopa 100/25: 1 po tid at 7,12,5, Rasagiline 0.5mg daily**
- Anxiety – **Sertraline 50mg qhs x 1 year**

**Motor:** motor Sx well treated during the day.

**Autonomic:** BP is fine without postural drop. Regular and easy BM with PEG 3350 daily. He goes to bathroom because he can't fall asleep at night.



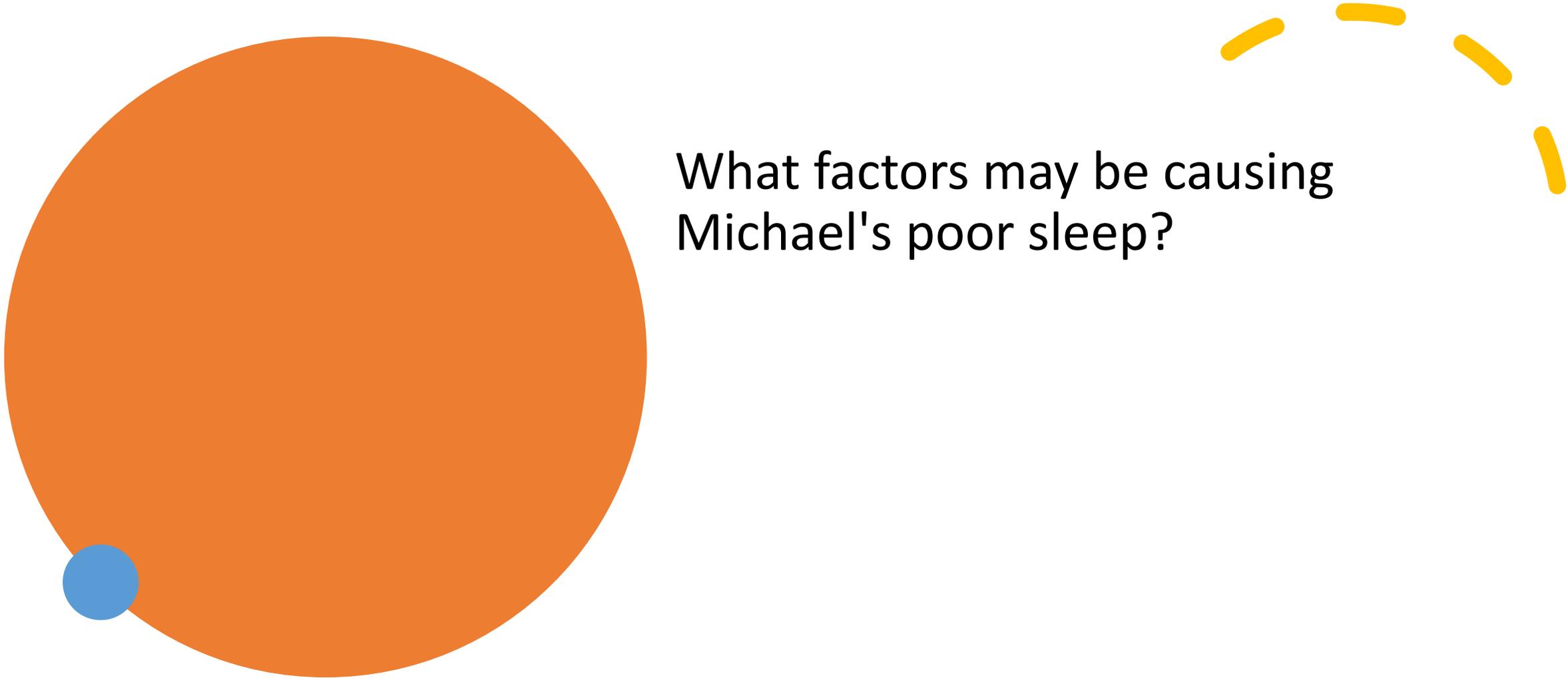
# Case 2 Michael 78 years retired plumber

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**Sleep/Neuropsych:** He stopped attending LTC activities and complains of feeling tired. He dozes off in front of TV during day. Complains of not feeling rested in morning.

- No history of OSA from past record.
- **Reports leg discomfort when trying to fall asleep – he has to get up and walk to get some relief for his legs but has fallen.**
- Staff reported him **screaming and acting out his dreams during the night. He has fallen out of bed once.**





What factors may be causing Michael's poor sleep?

## Common sleep issues in PD

1. Sleep apnea should be suspected if client has severe daytime sleepiness, heavy snoring.
2. Insomnia with depression and/or anxiety
3. REM sleep behavioural disorder (RBD)
4. Restless legs syndrome
5. Pain or muscle stiffness/spasm (dystonia) from PD
6. Caffeine or medications (Selegiline, Amantadine, Pseudoephedrine, Alcohol etc)

# Michael's issues

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- Restless legs at bedtime
- REM sleep disorder
- Possible anxiety/depression



Case 2  
Michael 78  
years  
retired  
plumber

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August 2022 – GDS 10; HAM-A Hamilton  
Anxiety Rating Scale - 13 (mild)

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Aug 2023 - MMSE: 24/30, GDS: 6; HAM-A -  
18 (moderate)

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Jun 2023: Hgb 139, SCr 74, Na 140, K 4.9, B12  
583, TSH 2.76, Vit D 138, **Ferritin 100, A1C 6.8**

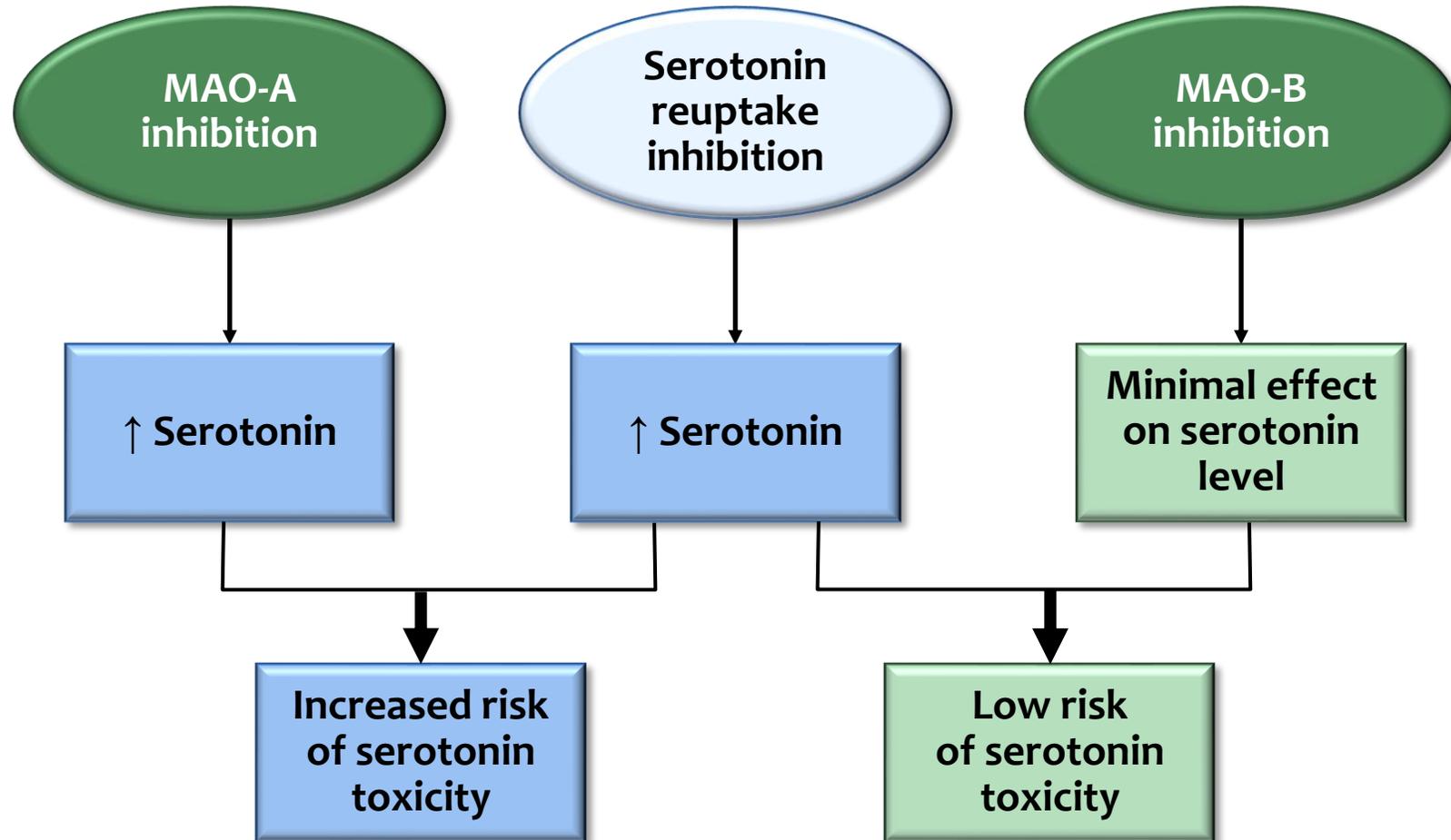
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**Iron 22, Transferrin 1.85 (L), Iron Saturation  
0.48**

## Depression & Anxiety in PD (25-55%)

- **low threshold for diagnosis** of depression & anxiety (often under-diagnosed, misinterpreted as normal for PD)
- May be **pre-motor** before PD Dx
- Start with **low dose selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI)** escitalopram, sertraline or **serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRI)**: duloxetine if in pain.
- Prefer taken **with breakfast or lunch** to avoid exacerbation of REM sleep behaviour disorder (RBD) or restless leg syndrome (RLS)

**Rasagiline more selective than Selegiline**



## Symptoms vary in type and severity (serotonin excess)

*Increasing Severity*



- Diarrhoea
- Restlessness
- Profuse sweating
- Tremor (including fine shaking of the hands)
- Shivering
- Involuntary muscle twitches or jerking
- Mental confusion and mental state changes
- Raised blood pressure and faster pulse (heart rate)
- Increased body temperature
- Seizures or convulsions (fits)

Prescriber's Letter 2012; 28(5):280528

What You Should Know About "Serotonin Syndrome"

## Rasagiline + Antidepressants

Rasagiline trials (TEMPO & LARGO) allowed pts on antidepressants:

- amitriptyline=50 mg/day,
  - trazodone=100 mg/day,
  - citalopram=20 mg/day,
  - sertraline=100 mg/day,
  - paroxetine=30 mg/day.
- 
- No adverse interactions were reported.
- 
- **\*\* ALWAYS TREAT DEPRESSION/ANXIETY, ok to stop MAO-B Inh if needed**

# REM Behaviour Disorder (RBD) 30-50%

- lack of large muscle atonia during REM sleep and often disrupts sleep quality
- enactment of dreams or even falling out of bed (may predate PD dx by decades).
- ask patients and partners about **vivid dreams, yelling and moving in sleep, hypnopompic hallucinations (hallucinations upon waking)**
- exacerbated by antidepressants (TCAs, SNRIs, SSRIs, mirtazapine) with serotonergic/noradrenergic properties, especially when given at bedtime.
- Clonazepam is effective, but more adverse effects
- Melatonin dual action 10mg or time release 5 mg at bedtime is preferred.

# Restless Leg Syndrome (RLS) 30%

- Subjective sensations of restlessness, discomfort, and paresthesia in the extremities while resting, accompanied by the urge to move
- Restless and desire to move the extremities to get temporary relief (walking or rubbing the legs)
- Symptoms are worse at rest and later in the day or at night.
- **In PD - this is a "wearing off" symptom**

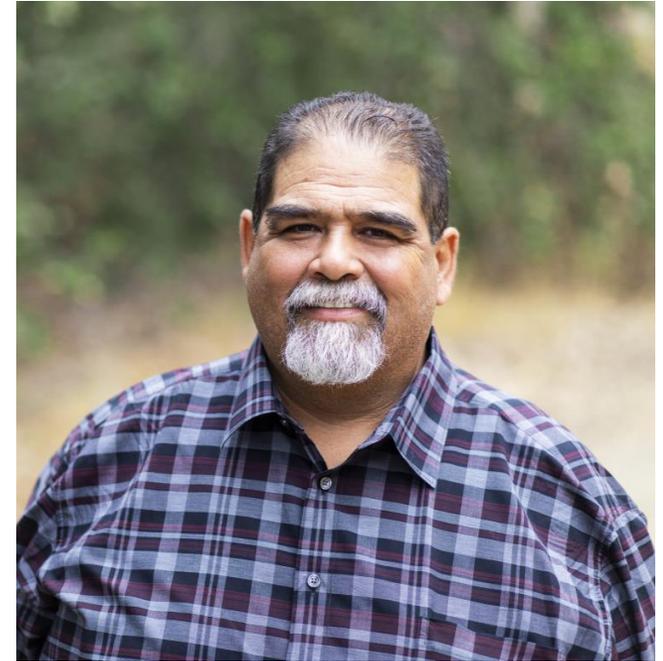
# Management of RLS

- Screen for iron deficiency & secondary causes
- Antidepressant and antipsychotics (incl quetiapine) taken at night often worsens RLS
- Address "wearing off" by adjusting levodopa – eg. Add bedtime dose or CR;
  - low dose pramipexole 0.125-0.25mg qhs or Rotigotine patch 2mg daily. (Need to rotate application site) is alternative and effective but **NOT when already impulsive, cognitive impairment or psychosis**
- Pregabalin 25mg-75mg qhs may be tried if patient also experiences anxiety.

# Case 2 Michael 78 years retired plumber

## Treatment Plan:

- Provide more daylight, minimize alcohol consumption, optimize relaxing environment in the evening
- Meds:
- Move Sertraline 50 mg to lunch time
- Add Melatonin Time Release 5mg qhs for RBD
- Add levodopa/carbidopa at bedtime – 100/25 1 tab po qid (30 min before meals and bedtime)
- If still RLS ++, add Pregabalin 25mg qhs
- Monitor mood – if needed and RLS, RBD controlled, increase sertraline to 75 mg ...



# Resources

## Physician Guide

### *Non-motor symptoms of Parkinson's Disease*

R. Postuma MD, S. Rios Romenets MD, R. Rakheja



- [http://www.parkinson.ca/wp-content/uploads/Physician Guide to Non Motor Symptoms of Parkinson Disease.pdf](http://www.parkinson.ca/wp-content/uploads/Physician_Guide_to_Non_Motor_Symptoms_of_Parkinson_Disease.pdf)

# Resources

Focus on Parkinson's disease – Part 1

 **SENIORS**  
Optimized Prescribing with Seniors

 ALBERTA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

 cpsa  
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS OF ALBERTA

 Contributed by:  
Joyce Lee MD CCFP COE, BScPharm – [View bio](#)

Case

**CFP MFC**  
CANADIAN FAMILY PHYSICIAN • LE MÉDECIN DE FAMILLE CANADIEN



Living with dementia

 Parkinson Canada  
[www.parkinson.ca](http://www.parkinson.ca)  
[www.ParkinsonClinicalGuidelines.ca](http://www.ParkinsonClinicalGuidelines.ca)

**APPENDIX 1:  
CANADIAN  
GUIDELINE  
FOR PARKINSON  
DISEASE, 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION**

## Parkinson disease primer, part 2: management of motor and nonmotor symptoms

Chris Frank MD CCFP(COE)(PC) FCFP Ruth Chiu MD CCFP(COE) Joyce Lee MD CCFP(COE)

- <https://www.parkinsonclinicalguidelines.ca/guideline/>
- Frank C, Chiu R, Lee J. Parkinson disease primer, part 2: management of motor and nonmotor symptoms Canadian Family Physician February 2023, 69 (2) 91-96; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.46747/cfp.690291>
- Lee J. Optimized prescribing with Seniors – Focus on Parkinson disease. Part 1. [Focus on Parkinson's disease – Part 1 | Alberta Medical Association \(albertadoctors.org\)](#)
- Mah G. Parkinson Disease A Management Update for Pharmacists. Pharmacy Practice + Business 2020 Vol 7 (10) 22-25

## SUMMARY – PD CARE



Constipation: PEG 8.5 to 17 gm daily + stimulant (Senna 2 tab 3x/wk to nightly)



REM Sleep Disorder: Melatonin Time Release 5mg/Dual Action 10 mg qhs,  
SSRI and Cholinesterase Inh in am (not hs)



Orthostasis: Reduce BP meds, fluids, abdo binder, midodrine 2.5 - 10 mg at  
0800, 1200, 1600, watch for supine HTN (may need losartan/captopril hs)



Depression: SSRI/SNRI in daytime, add melatonin if hx of RBD



Bone health - consider PD as risk factor for secondary OP, Vitamin D 2000 iu daily, BMD



BAD DRUGS: metoclopramide, anticholinergics, antipsychotics (quetiapine low dose OK)