Parkinson's Best Practice Chart



SYMPTOM	IMPACT	STRATEGIES
Tremor	Is tiring, causes fatigueCan cause weight lossWorse with anxiety/stressDiscomfort/painEmbarrassing	Medication on time every timeExerciseMonitor weightWeighted cutleryTreat pain
Rigidity	Reduced fine motor skillsReduced coordinationPain	Medication on time every timeExerciseAllow time, no rushingTreat pain
Bradykinesia / akinesia	SlownessStiffnessRisk of fallsPainFreezing of Gait	 Medication on time every time Exercise Allow time, no rushing Use of walking aids Concentrate on one task at a time Medication review Help them count steps Play some music/dance
Postural Disturbance	Loss of balanceRisk of FallsStooped posturePainOrthostatic Hypotension	 Do one thing at a time Step around in an arc when turning Take time, no rushing Glasses if prescribed Use walking aids/handrails
Constipation	 Discomfort Pain Impaired medication absorption Lethargy Reduced appetite Reduced fluid intake Nausea Incontinence issues Bowel obstruction 	 Close monitoring of bowels Eat well Drink sufficient fluids Regular exercise Good toileting habits Aperients High fibre diet

SYMPTOM	IMPACT	STRATEGIES
Speech	 Reduced volume-microphonia Slurred speech Changed speech rate Monotone Reduced facial cues Reduces socialization 	 Exercise Maintain socializing Listen carefully Allow time to respond Use of technology Oral care Concentrate on one task at a time Encourage them to mentally rehearse what they want to say
Swallowing	 Weight loss Risk of aspiration pneumonia Drooling 	 Medication on time every time Do not rush Exercise Monitor weight Weighted cutlery Ensure correct positioning Limit distractions Monitor for signs of aspiration Review by a speech pathologist Review by a dietician Modified fluids/food Finger foods
Anxiety, depression, panic attacks	 Reduces quality of life Loss of interest in activities/interest Inability to make decisions Social withdrawal Stress on both person and the carer Impacts on sleep 	 Monitor for signs Medication Counselling Music, art therapy Support group activities Healthy eating Exercise Relaxation techniques Change around negative thinking
Anosmia	Reduced enjoyment in eatingWeight lossReduced quality of life	Dietician reviewAdd condiments to enhance taste/smellVisually pleasing meal presentation

SYMPTOM	IMPACT	STRATEGIES
Facial expression	Mask-like faceReduced eye blink rateLack of emotionEmbarrassment	Exercising facial musclesUsing expressive wordsAllow time to respond
Orthostatic Hypotension	 Dizziness Falls Injury risk 	 Do not sit or stand or be inactive for long periods Avoid activity in the heat Stay cool Before getting up move your toes around and adjust your heels and calf muscles Allow your feet to dangle on the floor for a short time if getting out of bed Gentle marching leg movement may help Get up slowly, stand for a short time and monitor for steadiness If feeling dizzy or faint sit with your legs elevated until the feeling passes Ensure that you are well hydrated, drink a glass of water before getting up If feeling dizzy at the end of a meal, try having a glass of water at the end of the meal
Orthostatic Hypotension	DizzinessFallsInjury risk	 Reach over slowly and find a handhold to prevent overbalancing Eat smaller meals more frequently Avoid straining whilst having bowels open Avoid vigorous exercise Avoid caffeine at night Avoid hot foods and drinks Drink extra water if you are going to be standing for long periods Drink less alcohol due to the dehydrating effect Medication review regarding the blood pressure medications which you may be taking for hypertension as these could be reduced or ceased

SYMPTOM	IMPACT	STRATEGIES
Impulse control disorder	 Compulsivity Overeating Hypersexuality Gambling Punding – repetitive fascination with objects Social impact Hoarding Young-onset males are more prone 	 Urgent medication review Redirection Counselling
Sleep	 Medications not lasting, ie wearing off Difficulty getting into and out of bed Difficulty turning in bed Night-time urination Dystonia or prolonged muscle cramping Anxiety/depression Fluctuating BP Increased daytime sleepiness Restless Legs Pain Sleep apnoea REM Sleep Disorder 	 Make a regular night-time routine Exercise regularly Manage pain issues eg meds, hot pack, repositioning Avoid large, late evening meals Get enough sunlight to promote a healthy circadian rhythm Plan for tomorrow at an early evening time and not just before bed Relaxing activities before going to bed, eg reading, music Avoid exercise before bed Ensure that the bedroom is calm & comfortable Use the bedroom for sleeping and intimacy only Ensure that the bedroom is a comfortable temperature Go to bed when feeling sleepy Reduce daytime napping Reduce noise and light in the bedroom Warm non-caffeinated drink before bed Avoid caffeine before bedtime Avoid smoking before bedtime Avoid smoking before bedtime Avoid illicit drugs Reduce the time in bed when you are not asleep, get up, read/relax and then go back to bed Set a clock alarm so that waking at the correct time is achievable without anxiety Avoid digital clocks Avoid sleeping with pets Avoid using the computer or mobile phone immediately before bed

SYMPTOM	IMPACT	STRATEGIES
Bladder dysfunction	 Nocturia Constipation Wearing off Blood pressure fluctuations Frequency Incontinence 	 Slightly elevate the head of the bed at night Avoid caffeine before bedtime Avoid alcohol before bedtime Exercise daily Pelvic Floor exercise Review by Dr Medication Proper lying down afternoon rest Reduced fluid intake after 1700 hrs Try having a toilet or urinal close by
Pain	 Quality of life Exercise compliance Increases stress and anxiety Limits enjoy of pastimes Reduces the ability to attend to activities of daily living Reduces appetite 	 Identify the cause Medication on time every time Medication review Hot pack Repositioning Massage Exercise Maintain a healthy weight Analgesia Don't sit or stand for too long Physiotherapy Speech Therapy
Gastric Reflux	Medication absorptionPainAspiration pneumoniaSwallowing difficulties	 Eat smaller meals Have small nutritious snacks between meals Eat the evening meal early Slightly elevate the head of the bed Wear loose-fitting clothing Avoid smoking Avoid or reduce stress levels Monitor for foods that cause issues Avoid very hot/cold foods and drinks

SYMPTOM **IMPACT STRATEGIES Hallucinations** · Common in PD · Review of medications · Reduction of medications Generally visual · Relate to both the PD Trial Aricept, Exelon in very low doses pathology & medications · Antipsychotics in very severe cases · Important to discuss with eg Seroquel the doctor · Increase lighting to bright to reduce shadows Not a sign of madness Brighter lights at night Frequency increases · Vision review with an ophthalmologist with duration of PD to improve vision · More common with ageing Reduce nighttime sleep disturbance Mild hallucinations are not a · Avoid frequent cat naps and have a proper major problem afternoon hour nap Medication adjustment · Treat depression to improve quality of life may improve problem · Hallucinations limits the use of drugs and may need to be a trade-off between slowness, stiffness, and tremor versus hallucinations · PwP who do not have dementia realize that these hallucinations are not real Often present for only a few minutes Can become more frequent & prolonged over time May be linked to retinal thinning **Sweating** · Reduced perspiration · For Hypohydrosis causing very dry skin Avoid getting too hot · Excessive sweating Care if using a sauna or steam room · Drenching nighttime sweats Limit being in direct sunlight do not overexert · Can be linked to the · Use moisturizer medication cycle For Hyperhydrosis Avoid crowded rooms Avoid caffeine, spicy food, alcohol Wear light-colored clothing · Wear underarm and moisture-wicking clothing and socks · Wear leather shoes and change frequently · Drink plenty of water Take frequent showers

SYMPTOM	IMPACT	STRATEGIES
Cognition	 Slow thought processing, bradyphrenia Difficulty concentrating Unable to plan and organize activities Forgetting words Memory & learning issues Cannot multitask Difficulty controlling impulses Fatigue Driving Work practices 	 Concentrate deliberately Modify tasks to make them easier or safer Do one thing at a time Avoid distractions Allow extra time so there is no rushing Plan the task Use tick list/diary/alarm Stick to a routine Always place necessary items in the same place Webster pack, tab timer. Phone alarm for meds on time Include enjoyable activities each day in the routine
Dementia	 Problems planning and decision making Poor memory Mood and personality changes Apathy Hallucinations Visual changes Fluctuating cognition changes early in the diagnosis REM sleep disorder Medication sensitivity 	 Review by a psychogeriatrician Modify tasks to make them easier or safer Do one thing at a time Avoid distractions
Erectile dysfunction	 Embarrassment Unable to sustain an erection Stress, anxiety Difficulty with personal relationships 	Increased social supportsCounsellingMedication reviewMarital aides

SYMPTOM	IMPACT	STRATEGIES
Vision/Eye Care	 Reduced blink rate Dry eyes Double vision Blurred vision Eyelid spasms Colour and contrast changes Limited ability to judge speed and distance Driving ability Falls risk Hallucinations Glaucoma 	 Glasses, clean Regular eye care Eye drops, gels Monitor for drug interactions Modified reading glasses Resting the eyes Prompts to blink more frequently