

CORTICOBASAL DEGENERATION (CBD)

CBD is a life-limiting, adult-onset neurodegenerative disease. CBD is often known as an “atypical Parkinsonism” because of overlapping symptoms with Parkinson’s. It is caused by an abnormal build-up of tau protein in brain cells, like what happens in Alzheimer’s disease.



PREVALENCE

About 2,000-3,000 people in the United States have a diagnosis of CBD. These are likely underestimates because many people with CBD are misdiagnosed with another condition.



PROFOUND IMPACTS OF CBD

The average life expectancy of CBD is 5-10 years, nearly half that of Parkinson’s. Seeking a diagnosis consumes a third of this time. The emotional, physical and financial tolls of the disease on families are immense and require heavy utilization of healthcare resources.

SYMPTOMS AND DIAGNOSIS

A clinical diagnosis is made through a neurological exam, medical history, brain imaging and ruling out other conditions. Confirmation of CBD can only be made through a post-mortem study of brain tissue.



ASYMMETRIC SLOWNESS AND STIFFNESS



CHANGES IN PERSONALITY AND COGNITIVE FUNCTIONING



ISSUES WITH WALKING, BALANCE, POSTURE AND COORDINATION



DIFFICULTY SWALLOWING, LEADING TO RISK OF CHOKING AND LUNG INFECTIONS



SLURRED SPEECH AND DIFFICULTY EXPRESSING WORDS



PROBLEMS CONTROLLING THE BLADDER, LEADING TO HIGH RISK OF URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS

The list of symptoms above is not exhaustive and the presentation/progression of CBD is very individual.

RESEARCH: KNOWLEDGE GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The cause of CBD is unknown and there are no FDA-approved treatments for CBD at this time. There is an urgent need and opportunity to work together to:

Raise awareness of CBD to cut down time to diagnosis and getting the right care

Find reliable diagnostic markers of CBD (e.g., wearable devices, blood test, brain imaging)

Determine environmental and genetic risk factors for CBD

Develop effective treatments and, ultimately, a cure!



TREATMENT AND CARE

Currently, there is no known cure and there are no treatments to prevent CBD or slow the progression. Levodopa therapy, developed for Parkinson’s, is often used but may offer limited benefit. Medications, exercise and therapies are focused on safety and management of symptoms.



curePSP®

UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF BRAIN DISEASE®

CurePSP is the leading nonprofit organization dedicated to the awareness, care and cure of progressive supranuclear palsy, corticobasal degeneration and multiple system atrophy. Science, community and hope are at the heart of CurePSP’s mission and all of our services. For more information, please visit www.curepsp.org or contact Jessica Shurer, MSW, LCSW, Director of Clinical Affairs and Advocacy, at shurer@curepsp.org