

# Parkinsonism: A Neurological Condition, its Diagnostic Period and Management

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**Received:** 27-Feb-2024 Manuscript No. JADP-24-131415; **Editor assigned:** 29-Feb-2024, PreQC No. JADP-24-131415 (PQ); **Reviewed:** 14-Mar-2024, QC No. JADP-24-131415; **Revised:** 21-Mar-2024, Manuscript No. JADP-24-131415 (R); **Published:** 28-Mar-2024, DOI: 10.4172/2161-0460.1000594

**Citation:** Rehman A (2024) Parkinsonism: A Neurological Condition, its Diagnostic Period and Management. *J Alzheimers Dis Parkinsonism* 14: 594

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## Description

Parkinsonism, a complex neurological condition, encompasses a range of symptoms that resemble those of Parkinson's disease. Diagnosing parkinsonism involves a thorough examination of symptoms, medical history and various tests to differentiate it from other conditions with similar presentations. While the process can be challenging due to overlapping symptoms and variable progression, understanding the diagnostic period is crucial for effective management and support. This study explores the intricacies of diagnosing parkinsonism, shedding light on the evaluation process, available tests and potential challenges.

## Understanding parkinsonism

Parkinsonism refers to a group of neurological disorders characterized by motor symptoms such as tremors, stiffness and slowness of movement. These symptoms result from the dysfunction or degeneration of dopamine-producing neurons in the brain, particularly in the basal ganglia. While Parkinson's disease is the most well-known form of parkinsonism, other conditions, including drug-induced parkinsonism, vascular parkinsonism and Multiple System Atrophy (MSA), can present similar symptoms.

## The diagnostic process

**Clinical assessment:** Diagnosis typically begins with a comprehensive clinical evaluation by a neurologist or movement disorder specialist. The healthcare provider will conduct a detailed medical history review and a thorough physical examination to assess motor symptoms, such as tremors, rigidity and bradykinesia (slowness of movement).

**Diagnostic criteria:** To aid in diagnosis, healthcare professionals often refer to established diagnostic criteria,

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