



The longer I live with PD, the more I think that to term it a “movement disorder” is limiting and misleading.

PD affects everything, including cognition and mood. The sooner we all admit that, the sooner we can break out of the box our fragmented, competitive system of health care and medical specialties has put us in.

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A Movement Disorder ?

Many people with Parkinson's feel that the initial symptoms that led to their diagnosis are not their biggest concern. Often the symptoms that cause the greatest difficulty are not treated by their neurologist, they are dealt with by specialists that deal with other areas of the body than the brain, such as urologists, physiotherapists, ?? .

Some require treatment by psychologists or psychiatrists for depression, obsessive compulsive disorders or sleep disorders. The doctors who treat these conditions sometimes have a limited understanding of PD and the way PD medications can be affected by other medication, or may even be the cause of the problem.

Some of the non-motor symptoms are misdiagnosed as other conditions, and patients, both before and after their PD diagnosis may be treated for many years with drug or surgical therapies, sometimes inappropriately.

The wide range of symptoms that can vary in each patient can result in PD not being recognised for a considerable time. Sometimes the first symptoms are not physical at all. This has led to patients wondering why PD is categorised as a movement disorder, and whether this actually leads to delays in initial diagnosis, confusion in confirming the presence of PD, and treatment that is not necessary.

Communication between patients has been found to be very helpful in filling in some of these information gaps, and empowering them to manage their own condition. While they are on the whole pleased that the non-motor symptoms of PD are now being recognised and written about, the patient community is concerned that the general level of awareness of PD in both medical and non-medical settings can be quite poor, and that this could be a reflection of the way the condition is categorised.