

PARKINSON'S DISEASE – A UNIQUE SURVEY LAUNCHED

Parkinson's disease is a progressive neuro-degenerative disorder, which affects movement or the control of movement, including speech and 'body language'. It is known to affect people from all ethnic groups. Although the incidence is higher in the elderly population, more than one in ten sufferers is diagnosed by the age of 50.

Like many other neurological illnesses, Parkinson's disease is chronic, progressive and, at the moment, incurable. The main treatment for it is drug therapy, although surgical techniques are also used. Research is continuing into the use of foetal brain tissue implants, but as yet the results are inconclusive.

Although some people in the later stages may become mentally confused or demented, most retain their intellectual facilities while living in a body which is becoming increasingly disabled. This, in itself, can contribute to the boredom, social isolation and depression commonly experienced by sufferers.

Because of the ageing of the world population, the importance of Parkinson's disease as a public health issue is expected to increase. The emphasis in WHO's efforts is placed on the promotion of epidemiological studies and health statistics; assessment of cost benefits and health needs; the organization of services; and on raising public and professional awareness of Parkinson's disease.

QUESTION : (EXPRESS YOUR IDEAS)

- 1. What comes in your mind when you hear the word Parkinson's disease?**
- 2. What are the common signs and symptoms of the said disease?**
- 3. What neurotransmitter is affected in patient with Parkinson's?**
- 4. What are the risk factors in patient with Parkinson's disease?**
- 5. As a health care practitioner, how do you deal in patients with PD?**
- 6. What are your health teachings to improve their capability?**