

What is Parkinson's disease and what is UCB investigating?



What is Parkinson's disease?

Parkinson's disease is a complex condition in which parts of the brain become progressively damaged over many years.^{1,2}



Main symptoms include **slowness of movement**, **tremor (shaking)** and **rigidity (muscle stiffness)**. In addition, people can also experience **fatigue**, **low blood pressure**, as well as **bladder and bowel problems**.²⁻⁴



Why people develop Parkinson's disease is not yet fully understood, however, it is thought that a combination of **genetic**, **age** and **environmental factors** cause certain brain cells to die.⁵



It is estimated that **8.5 million** individuals were living with Parkinson's in 2019.^{5,6} The number of people living with Parkinson's Disease is expected to **exceed 12 million** by 2040.⁶

Treatment for Parkinson's disease

A major unmet need in Parkinson's disease exists. Current therapies focus on managing symptoms and include drug treatments, physical activities and various therapy treatments such as physiotherapy and occupational therapy.¹

There are no treatments available that are capable of slowing or halting the progression of Parkinson's disease.^{7,8} Available therapies are only able to help manage symptoms and provide limited or temporary relief.^{2,9,10}



Researchers are now working to see if they can develop treatments that can delay the progression of Parkinson's disease.⁷ The aim is to slow the worsening of the neurodegenerative processes underlying disease progression, by blocking or interfering with the underlying causes of Parkinson's disease.^{7,8}

What is UCB investigating in Parkinson's disease?

UCB is exploring **new ways to improve symptom management**, and if it is possible to **slow or halt the progression of disease**.

It is UCB's long-term ambition to **reduce the impact of Parkinson's disease on individuals, so they are able to maintain their independence and quality of life for longer.** We aim to change the treatment approach from symptom management to modifying the disease itself.

To find out more about Clinical trials – please [click here](#).



Partnering with people living with Parkinson's disease

UCB is partnering with the Parkinson's community for a patient-centered approach to designing clinical trials.



To help improve the lives of people living with Parkinson's disease, UCB drives **patient approaches** and incorporates the **patient voice** into the design of clinical trials.



Partnering with Parkinson's UK and the Parkinson's Foundation, USA, helps UCB **gather new insights to fully understand the impact of living with Parkinson's disease.**



UCB has joined forces with patient organizations – Parkinson's UK and the Parkinson's Foundation, USA – and people living with Parkinson's, to establish a **Patient Engagement Council for Parkinson's Research.**



Additionally, UCB is **developing Patient Reported Outcome measures** to establish new ways of measuring the impact of new treatment approaches.

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