

EXERCISE & PARKINSON'S DISEASE

MEDICAL EVIDENCE FOR A STRONG RELATIONSHIP

Philip W. Tipton, M.D. | Parkinson's ExercisAbilities Conference November 14, 2020





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INTRODUCTION TO THE NERVOUS SYSTEM





WHAT IS A NEURODEGENERATION?

e.jpg?quality=85&w=840

https://www.dudleymoore.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/1_Dudley-Moore-e1490374679524-2000x1200.jpg

THE FACES OF NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASE

https://media.nbcconnecticut.com/2019/09/0zzy-Osbourne-Getty-TLMD.jpg?crop=0px%2C0px%2C0px&resize=850%2C478

https://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/shared/npr/styles/x_large/nprshared/202001/653111565.jpg





Parkinson's disease

Boxer Image from https://media1.s-nbcnews.com/i/newscms/2016_22/1564496/ali-liston_ce2b2d2917366a74628a579e283ad146.jpg Olympics image from https://stillmed.olympic.org/media/Photos/2010/01/13/Opening%20Ceremony%20Atlanta%201996_112721.jpg Brainstem section images from https://scienceofparkinsons.com/tag/substantia-nigra/ Mayo Clinic | Proprietary and confidential. Do not distribute.

Lewy body image from https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/what-lewy-body-dementia

The Future of Parkinson's disease in the U.S.



Yang W, Hamilton JL, Kopil C, et al. Current and projected future economic burden of Parkinson's disease in the U.S. npj Park Dis. Nature Research; 2020;6:1-9.

THE STUDY OF EXERCISE & NEURODEGENERATION





WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW...

- Does exercise prevent Parkinson's disease?
 - How early in life must one begin exercising?
 - What type of exercise is best?
- Does exercise slow progression of PD?
 - What type of exercise?
 - What symptoms are slowed?
 - How does it do this?
 - Are we replacing brain cells?
- Does exercise prevent PD-related cognitive decline?
 - If so, what type of exercise?
- Consider secondary benefits
 - Ex. Exercise to prevent deconditioning to prevent falls or other serious injury which may *appear* to accelerate the disease
 - Cardiovascular and cerebrovascular benefits



Jack CR, Knopman DS, Jagust WJ, et al. Tracking pathophysiological processes in Alzheimer's disease: An updated hypothetical model of dynamic biomarkers

REVIEW

CrossMark

Aerobic Exercise: Evidence for a Direct Brain Effect to Slow Parkinson Disease Progression

J. Eric Ahlskog, PhD, MD

MAYO

CLINIC

Abstract

No medications are proven to slow the progression of Parkinson disease (PD). Of special concern with longer-standing PD is cognitive decline, as well as motor symptoms unresponsive to dopamine replacement therapy. Not fully recognized is the substantial accumulating evidence that long-term aerobic exercise may attenuate PD progression. Randomized controlled trial proof will not be forthcoming due to many complicating methodological factors. However, extensive and diverse avenues of scientific investigation converge to argue that aerobic exercise and cardiovascular fitness directly influence cerebral mechanisms mediating PD progression. To objectively assess the evidence for a PD exercise benefit, a comprehensive PubMed literature search was conducted, with an unbiased focus on exercise influences on parkinsonism, cognition, brain structure, and brain function. This aggregate literature provides a compelling argument for regular aerobic-type exercise and cardiovascular fitness attenuating PD progression.

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Mayo Clin Proc. 2018;93(3):360-372



Ahlskog JE. Aerobic Exercise: Evidence for a Direct Brain Effect to Slow Parkinson Disease Progression. Mayo Clin. Proc. 2018;93(3):360-372.

HURDLES

- How do we answer these questions?
 - Level of evidence
 - Anecdotal
 - Randomized control trials

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TAP TA

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OSAKA NAGAI

OSAKA NAGAI

- Considerations
 - PD is slow
 - Biomarkers are lacking
 - How to measure exercise
 - Reporting bias
- Cost (reality)
 - Exercise isn't profitable



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ANIMAL STUDIES

- Exercise facilitates neuroplasticity
- Exercised animals perform better on simple cognitive tests
- Microscopic and neuropsychiologic evidence of exercise-related neuroplasticity
- Exercise facilitates biochemical markers of neuroplasticity
- Exercise influences on brain neurotrophic factors
- Brain neurotrophic factor levels
 increase with exercise in animals
- Animal models of neurotoxin-induced Parkinsonism Attentuated by Exercise
- Exercise Increases Neurotrophic factor levels and attenuates 6-OH-DA Nigrostriatal Neurotoxicity.
- Exercise tends to reduce MPTP
 Nigrostriatal Neurotoxicity

Ability for neural networks to change to suit the needs of the individual.



- Exercised animals perform better on simple cognitive tasks
 - Rats and mice show exercise-related improvement in spatial memory (maze) or object recognition



- 1. Ahlskog JE. Aerobic Exercise: Evidence for a Direct Brain Effect to Slow Parkinson Disease Progression. Mayo Clin. Proc. 2018;93(3):360–372.
- 2. Aguiar AS, Castro AA, Moreira EL, et al. Short bouts of mild-intensity physical exercise improve spatial learning and memory in aging rats: Involvement of hippocampal plasticity via AKT, CREB and BDNF signaling. Mech. Ageing Dev. 2011;132(11–12):560–567.



- Microscopic and neurophysiologic evidence of exercise-related neuroplasticity
- Neurogenesis occurs in the hippocampus
 - This may be enhanced with long-term running exercise in rodents.



1. Ahlskog JE. Aerobic Exercise: Evidence for a Direct Brain Effect to Slow Parkinson Disease Progression. Mayo Clin. Proc. 2018;93(3):360-372.

2. Mustroph ML, Chen S, Desai SC, et al. Aerobic exercise is the critical variable in an enriched environment that increases hippocampal neurogenesis and water maze learning in male C57BL/6J mice. Neuroscience 2012;219:62–71.

b Synaptophysin







NEUROPLASTICTY

 Treadmill exercise reverses dendritic spine loss in mouse model of Parkinson's disease





- PD rat model (6-OHDA)
- "Compulsive" Treadmill exercise
 24 hours after 6-OHDA lesion
 - 5 days/wk, 30 min/day, 11 meters/min
- Preservation in dopamine signaling (TH)
- Increased neurotrophic factors (BDNF & GDNF)



Tajiri N, Yasuhara T, Shingo T, et al. Exercise exerts neuroprotective effects on Parkinson's disease model of rats. Brain Res. 2010;1310:200-207





- neurodegeneration
- 3. Studying exercise & neurodegeneration
 - 4. Animal studies

2. Call to action (Exercise & More)

QUESTIONS

