

Unfortunately, Parkinson's disease is often viewed as a relatively benign disorder. But imagine the options for the individual: be frozen, take medication that may produce worse side effects or risk brain surgery. What were your ideas about this disorder before this lecture?

I thought the Parkinson's was pretty bad, but not as bad as I have learned it is!

Pesticides and herbicides have been implicated in Parkinson's disease. Some scientists believe that our exposure to such agents over a lifetime is responsible for the high number of cases seen in older patients. What other causes for Parkinson's have been proposed and studied in recent years?

Certain medications, Shy-Drager syndrome (a degenerative disorder) and blood vessel disorders are all possible causes that are being studied. Blood vessel disorders like stroke and atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries), although rare, can cause symptoms similar to Parkinson's disease.