

# Osteoarthritis linked to higher Parkinson's disease risk

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A study published in *Arthritis Care & Research* has uncovered an elevated risk of Parkinson's disease in individuals with osteoarthritis.

The [retrospective study](#) using Taiwan's Longitudinal Health Insurance Database 2005 included 33,360 patients who were 50-64 years old and had osteoarthritis in 2002-2005. A comparison group consisted of 33,360 age- and sex- matched individuals without osteoarthritis. The osteoarthritis group had a 41% higher risk of developing Parkinson's disease, after adjustments. Patients with knee or hip osteoarthritis appeared to have a higher risk of Parkinson's disease than patients with non-knee and non-hip osteoarthritis or with uncategorized osteoarthritis.

Although the mechanisms behind a potential link between osteoarthritis and Parkinson's disease are unknown, both conditions involve inflammation.

"Coexisting osteoarthritis and Parkinson's disease can additively increase the risk of falling. Moreover, [osteoarthritis](#)-related mobility impairments may mask early motor symptoms of Parkinson's disease," said senior author Shin-Liang Pan, MD, Ph.D., of National Taiwan University. "Health professionals need to be alert to the potential link between these two diseases."

**More information:** Shih-Hao Feng et al, Osteoarthritis is associated with an increased risk of Parkinson's disease: A population-based, longitudinal follow-up study, *Arthritis Care & Research* (2021). [DOI: 10.1002/acr.24708](#)

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