

Is it Parkinson's? These 10 signs could tell

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Parkinson's disease can be hard for the average person to identify, but [10 warning signs](#) may offer an early clue that you or a loved one may be developing the disease.

The Parkinson's Foundation suggests being aware of [the signs](#), while knowing that having any one of them doesn't mean [the disease](#) is present.

Tremor—such as in a finger, thumb, hand or chin—can suggest Parkinson's, though it can also be a side effect of stress, injury, medication or a lot of exercise.

Parkinson's can also cause a change in handwriting known as micrographia, where letter sizes become smaller and words more crowded.

People with Parkinson's can also thrash around in sleep, something a spouse may notice.

Sense of smell may diminish with foods like bananas, dill pickles or licorice. Of course, viruses, including cold, flu and COVID-19 can also affect [sense of smell](#).

Another possible sign of Parkinson's is stiffness in the body, arms and legs. A person's arms may no longer swing in a typical fashion or feet may feel like they're "stuck to the floor." Some other [health conditions](#), such as arthritis, can also cause stiffness.

A change in voice may signal Parkinson's. It may become softer, breathy or hoarse.

Another sign is "facial masking," in which a person's face looks serious, depressed or mad but doesn't match their mood. But some medicines can also cause a person to have a serious look or stare.

Constipation, dizziness or fainting, and stooping or hunching when a person is standing are three additional signs of Parkinson's disease.

If you have more than one of these symptoms, the Parkinson's Foundation suggests talking with a doctor about the possibility of [Parkinson's disease](#).

More information: The U.S. National Institute on Aging has more on [Parkinson's disease](#).

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