



OHSU
PARKINSON
CENTER

Physical Therapy and Exercise Guidelines for Parkinson's Disease

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OHSU Parkinson Center



Disclosures

- Nothing to disclose

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Objectives

- Understand current exercise guidelines for Parkinson's Disease
- Describe when to utilize physical therapy throughout the course of Parkinson's Disease

History of PD and Exercise

“life should be quiet and regular, freed, as far as may be, from care and work”

1899

Carbidopa/levodopa commercially available

1975

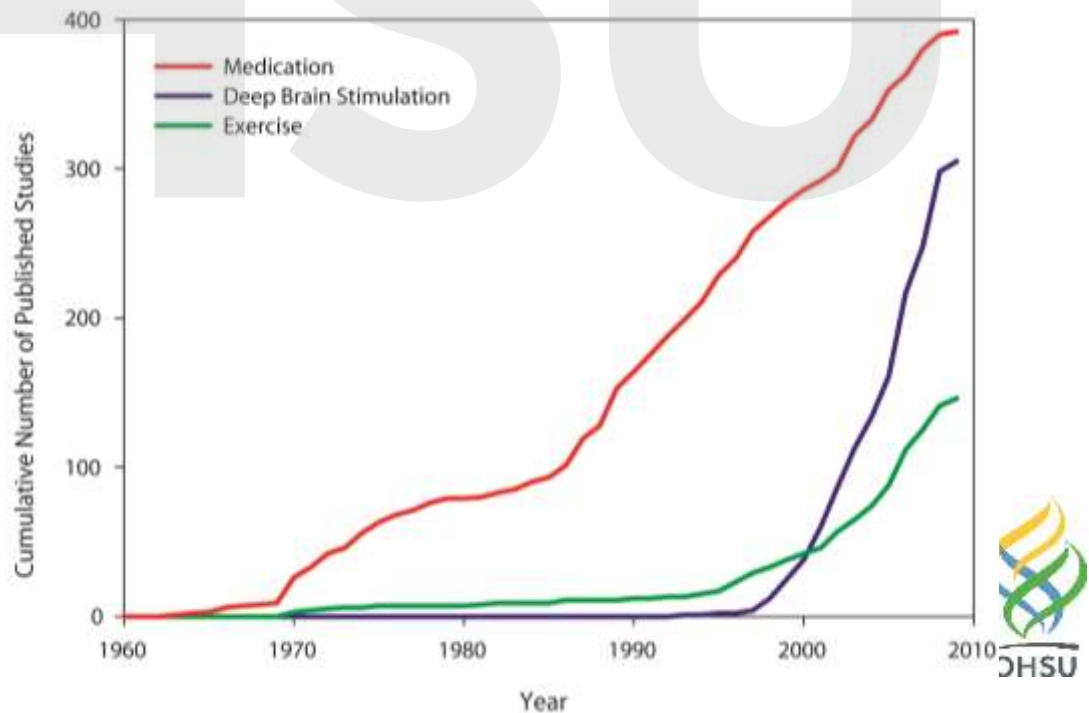
Animal studies show high intensity exercise is neuroprotective

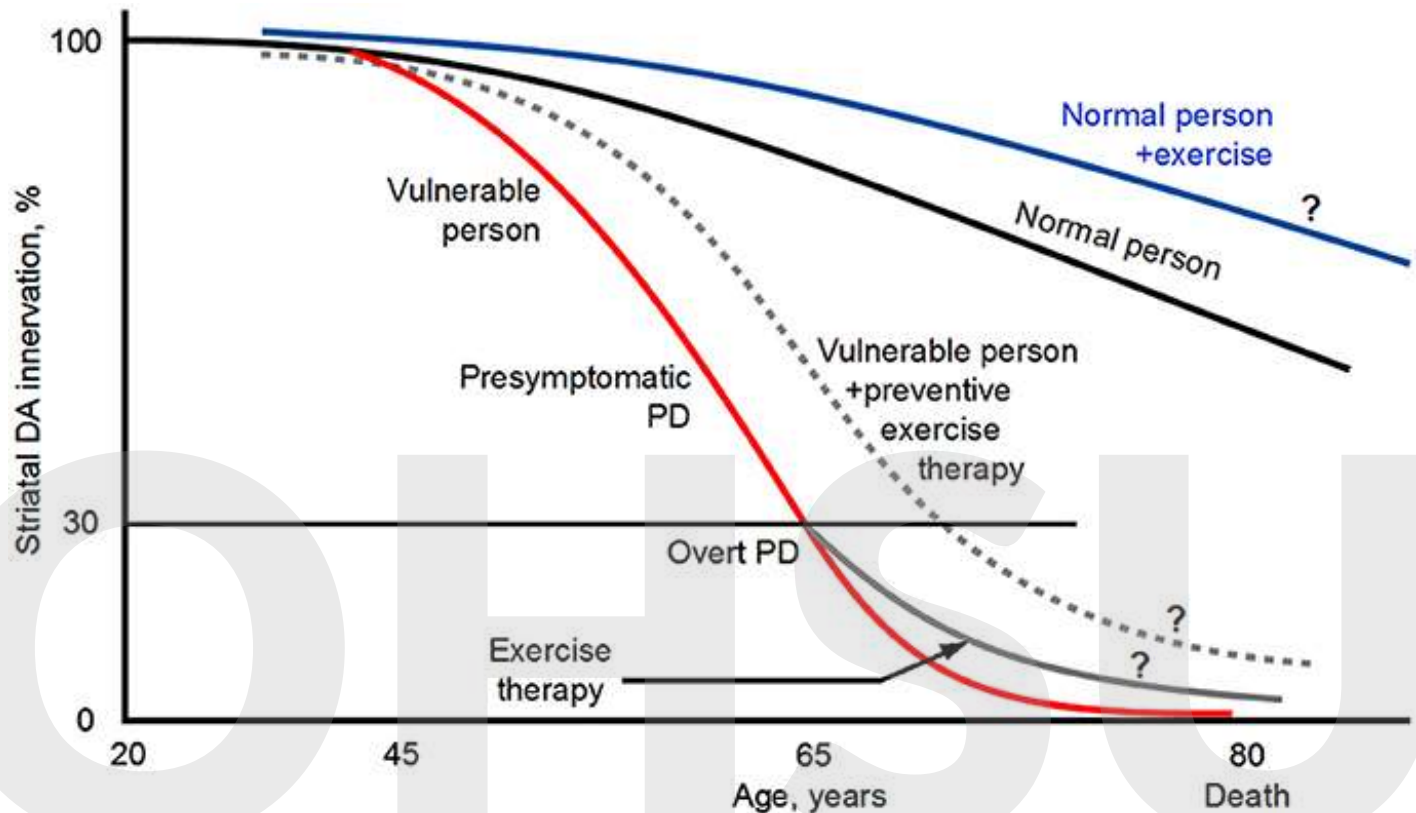
2000s

Numerous clinical trials looking at various modes of exercise on PD

2010s

Stretching, Chair exercises





- Disease modifying = slowing the course of the disease
- Symptom modifying = slowing progression of symptoms
- At this point good evidence for **symptom modification** but not for disease modification

What is the BEST exercise?

- Strength training
- Aerobic
- Balance exercises
- Task specificity and multifaceted
 - Tai Chi
 - Dance
 - Agility
- Individual vs Group



- Small significant effect (≤ 0.2)
- Moderate significant effect (0.2-0.5)
- Moderately large significant effect (0.5-0.8)
- Large significant effect (≥ 0.8)

Table 1. Results of the Outcome Measures Related to the Type of Intervention.^a

	Motor symptoms		Balance			Gait			QOL
	(UPDRS)	TUG	Berg	6 min walk	10 m walk	Speed	Stride length	Cadence	(PDQ-39)
Conventional PT (n = 45)	0.48 [0.35, 0.60]**	0.11 [-0.07, 0.29]	0.03 [-0.25, 0.31]	0.13 [-0.01, 0.28]	0.30 [0.01, 0.59]	0.24 [0.03, 0.45]	0.28 [-0.11, 0.67]	0.52 [0.11, 0.92]	0.11 [0.01, 0.22]
Resistance training (n = 17)	0.20 [-0.02, 0.42]	0.19 [-0.05, 0.43]	0.31 [-0.47, 1.09]	0.67 [0.09, 1.24]		-0.07 [-0.30, 0.16]	-0.63 [-1.20, -0.06]		0.23 [0.01, 0.43]
Treadmill training (n=22)	0.09 [0.29]	0.07 [-0.19, 0.34]	0.21 [-0.13, 0.55]	0.29 [0.04, 0.55]*	0.47 [0.08, 0.85]	0.52 [0.34, 0.69]	0.20 [-0.04, 0.44]	0.12 [-0.15, 0.39]	-0.06 [-0.49, 0.36]
Strategy training (n = 14)	0.43 [-0.32, 1.18]	0.53 [0.23, 0.82]	0.12 [-0.43, 0.68]	-0.02 [-0.90, 0.85]	-0.04 [-0.60, 0.51]	0.45 [0.13, 0.76]	0.52 [0.11, 0.93]	0.47 [-0.01, 0.95]	0.17 [-0.34, 0.67]
Dance (n=11)	0.72 [0.44, 1.01]	0.49 [0.19, 0.80]	0.59 [0.27, 0.91]	0.51 [0.10, 0.91]		0.32 [-0.02, 0.66]	0.11 [-0.36, 0.58]	1.33 [0.31, 2.34]	-0.13 [-0.63, 0.38]
Martial arts (n = 11)	0.26 [0.08, 0.43]	0.56 [0.36, 0.77]	0.24 [-0.02, 0.49]	0.20 [-0.15, 0.55]		0.29 [0.07, 0.52]	0.32 [0.07, 0.56]		-0.09 [-0.66, 0.47]
Nordic walking (n = 3)	0.74 [0.24, 1.24]	0.55 [0.06, 1.04]	0.99 [0.48, 1.50]	0.94 [0.28, 1.60]	0.37 [-0.15, 0.90]				0.46 [-0.18, 1.11]
Aerobic exercises (n = 5)	0.92 [0.61, 1.22]	0.80 [0.44, 1.15]	[-0.81, 0.83]	1.02 [0.69, 1.34]					0.20 [-0.11, 0.52]
Balance and gait training (n = 28)	0.34 [0.11, 0.56]	0.36 [0.15, 0.58]	0.57 [0.35, 0.79]	-0.12 [-0.48, 0.23]	0.15 [-0.56, 0.85]	0.28 [0.12, 0.44]	0.36 [0.12, 0.59]	0.24 [-0.01, 0.48]	0.28 [-0.04, 0.60]
Hydrotherapy (n = 8)	-0.11 [-0.41, 0.19]	0.50 [0.25, 0.75]	0.31 [0.04, 0.59]						0.39 [-0.01, 0.79]
Dual task (n = 3)	-0.18 [-0.79, 0.42]	-0.36 [-1.39, 0.66]				-0.25 [-0.85, 0.34]	-0.08 [-0.46, 0.30]	-0.29 [-0.65, 0.07]	-0.04 [-0.78, 0.71]
Exergaming (n = 9)		0.58 [0.29, 0.87]	0.47 [0.17, 0.77]	0.23 [-0.20, 0.67]	-1.66 [-2.84, -0.48]	0.30 [-0.02, 0.62]	0.77 [-0.07, 1.60]		0.45 [0.13, 0.77]

Abbreviations: n, number of included studies; PT, physiotherapy; (MDS-)UPDRS-III, Movement Disorder Society-sponsored revision of the Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale part III; TUG, Timed Up and Go; BBS, Berg Balance Scale; 6MWT, 6-Minute Walking Test; 10MWT, 10-Minute Walking Test; PDQ-39, Parkinson's Disease Questionnaire-39; PDQL, Parkinson's Disease Quality of Life Questionnaire.
^aData are presented as standardized mean difference [95% CI]. Positive effect estimates mean positive results on each outcome measure. Red cells indicate small significant effect (≤ 0.2), orange cells indicate moderate significant effect (0.2-0.5), light green cells indicate moderately large significant effect (0.5-0.8), and dark green cells indicate large significant effect (≥ 0.8).
^{*}Statistically significant effect, $P \leq .05$.
^{**}Statistically significant effect, $P \leq .001$.

Physical Therapist Management of Parkinson Disease: A Clinical Practice Guideline from the American Physical Therapy Association

Intervention	Quality of Evidence	Strength of Recommendation
Aerobic exercise	High	◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
Resistance training	High	◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
Balance training	High	◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
Flexibility exercises	Low	◆ ◆ ◇ ◇
External cuing	High	◆ ◆ ◆ ◇
Community-based exercise	High	◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
Gait training	High	◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
Task specific training	High	◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
Behavior-change approach	High	◆ ◆ ◆ ◇
Integrated care	High	◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
Telerehabilitation	Moderate	◆ ◆ ◇ ◇

Strong ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
 Moderate ◆ ◆ ◆ ◇
 Weak ◆ ◆ ◇ ◇



Recent recommendations

www.parkinson.org

Parkinson's Exercise Recommendations

Parkinson's is a progressive disease of the nervous system marked by tremor, stiffness, slow movement and balance problems.

Exercise and physical activity can improve many motor and non-motor Parkinson's symptoms:



Aerobic Activity

3 days/week for at least 30 mins per session of continuous or intermittent at moderate to vigorous intensity

TYPE: Continuous, rhythmic activities such as brisk walking, running, cycling, swimming, aerobics class

CONSIDERATIONS: Safety concerns due to risks of freezing of gait, low blood pressure, blunted heart rate response. Supervision may be required.



Strength Training

2-3 non-consecutive days/week for at least 30 mins per session of 10-15 reps for major muscle groups; resistance, speed or power focus

TYPE: Major muscle groups of upper/lower extremities such as using weight machines, resistance bands, light/moderate handheld weights or body weight

CONSIDERATIONS: Muscle stiffness or postural instability may hinder full range of motion.



Balance, Agility & Multitasking

2-3 days/week with daily integration if possible

TYPE: Multi-directional stepping, weight shifting, dynamic balance activities, large movements, multitasking such as yoga, tai chi, dance, boxing

CONSIDERATIONS: Safety concerns with cognitive and balance problems. Hold on to something stable as needed. Supervision may be required.



Stretching

>2-3 days/week with daily being most effective

TYPE: Sustained stretching with deep breathing or dynamic stretching before exercise

CONSIDERATIONS: May require adaptations for flexed posture, osteoporosis and pain.



See a physical therapist specializing in Parkinson's for full functional evaluation and recommendations.



Safety first: Exercise during on periods, when taking medication. If not safe to exercise on your own, have someone with you.



It's important to **modify and progress** your exercise routine over time.



Participate in **150 minutes** of moderate-to-vigorous exercise per week.



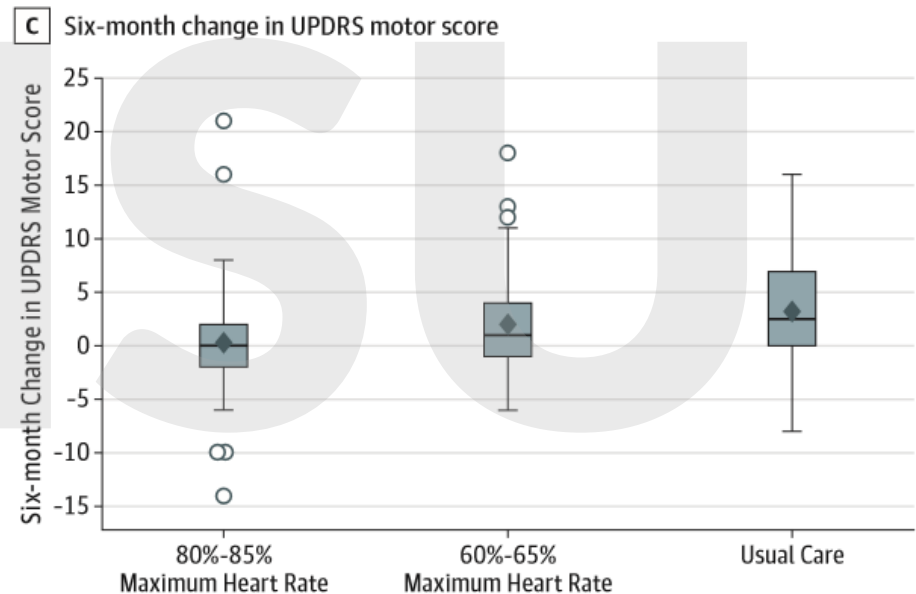
AMERICAN COLLEGE
of SPORTS MEDICINE
LEADING THE WAY

Parkinson's
Foundation

Helpline: 800.473.4636/Parkinson.org

High Intensity = Better

- Clear prior issues: cardiac, MSK
- Focus on **INTENSE** aerobic
 - Early referrals are **BEST**
- Motivational interviewing: what is the client **going to do** for exercise
- www.sparx3pd.com



How hard should I push myself?

- If it's easy: it's probably not doing anything
- Balance between too easy and hurting yourself
- Slow increase in challenge or intervals

RPE SCALE	RATE OF PERCEIVED EXERTION
10 /	MAX EFFORT ACTIVITY Feels almost impossible to keep going. Completely out of breath, unable to talk. Cannot maintain for more than a very short time.
9 /	VERY HARD ACTIVITY Very difficult to maintain exercise intensity. Can barely breathe and speak only a few words
7-8 /	VIGOROUS ACTIVITY Borderline uncomfortable. Short of breath, can speak a sentence
4-6 /	MODERATE ACTIVITY Breathing heavily, can hold a short conversation. Still somewhat comfortable, but becoming noticeably more challenging
2-3 /	LIGHT ACTIVITY Feels like you can maintain for hours. Easy to breathe and carry a conversation
1 /	VERY LIGHT ACTIVITY Hardly any exertion, but more than sleeping, watching TV, etc

- Max HR: $220 - \text{age}$
 - Aerobic: 65-85% of Max HR
 - Example: 65 yo: Max HR = $220 - 65 = 155$ bpm
 - 65% of max HR = 101 bpm
 - 85% of max HR = 132 bpm
- Consult with a PT or consider an exercise stress test

Aerobic



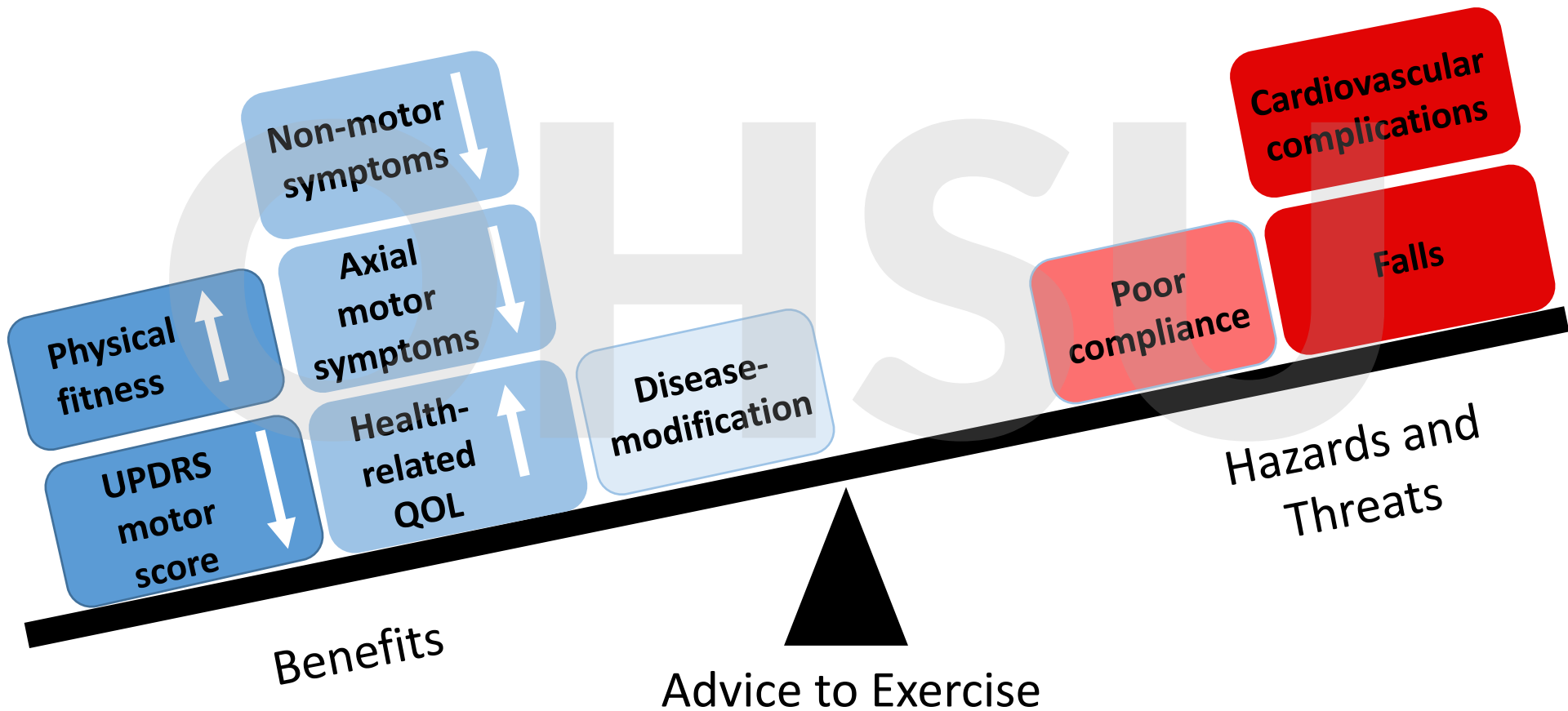
Dosing

- Frequency: 3x/wk
- Duration:
 - 30 min at target intensity
 - 5-10 min warm up/cool down
 - 2-16 months (sustained)
- Intensity:
 - Moderate to High

Considerations

- No one form is better than another
- Task specificity in training
- Should be initiated in early PD

The argument for exercise



Exercise options



Stanford Parkinson's Community Outreach

PD Exercise Classes Live Online

Amy Says Dance

By Amy Herman Carlson (Los Angeles, CA)

Cost: Free

Classes: free form dance

Class Time (PT):

- Daily: 8:15am

Use this link to join the class at the scheduled time



APDA Northwest Chapter At-Home Exercise Options

By American Parkinson Disease Association (APDA) Northwest Chapter (Seattle, WA)

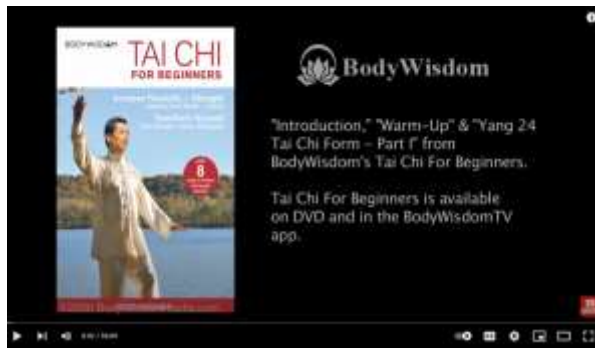


Cost: Free

Classes: body moves, chair yoga, dance, laughter yoga, movement studio, music therapy, Rock Steady Boxing, Sing Loud, yoga for PD

Class Times (PT):

- Monday: 10am (music therapy)
- Tuesday: 8am (dance moves), 1pm (chair yoga), 2:30pm (yoga for PD)
- Wednesday: 10:30am (body moves), 12:30pm (Sing Loud)
- Thursday: 7am (laughter yoga), 2:30pm (yoga for PD)



PF Fitness Fridays



Parkinson's Disease Exercises:
Sit 'n' Fit

Parkinson's Foundation
13K views • 1 year ago



Parkinson's Disease Exercises:
Head, Shoulders, Knees and...

Parkinson's Foundation
8.3K views • 1 year ago



Parkinson's Disease Exercises:
Flexibility

Parkinson's Foundation
5K views • 1 year ago



Find an Exercise Class

WHAT'S YOUR MOTIVATION TO KEEP MOVING?

Brian Grant exercise class finder



Psychology of Exercise and Parkinson's

We know exercise is beneficial for Parkinson's patients
Parkinson's patients are often less active than age-matched controls

BARRIERS

- Low outcome expectation
- Time
- Fear of falling

MOTIVATORS

- Enjoyable
- Less travel/cost less
- Include both social engagement and support
- Supervised by qualified professionals with Parkinson's Disease expertise
- Safe and adaptable

Contributors to **poor outcomes**

Cognitive difficulties

Problem solving

Dual tasking

Visuo-spatial



Non-motor symptoms

Orthostatic hypotension

Fatigue

Apathy



Medication side effects

Dyskinesia

Impulsivity

Motor fluctuations



Comorbidities that impact success of HEP

Depression

Mild cognitive impairment

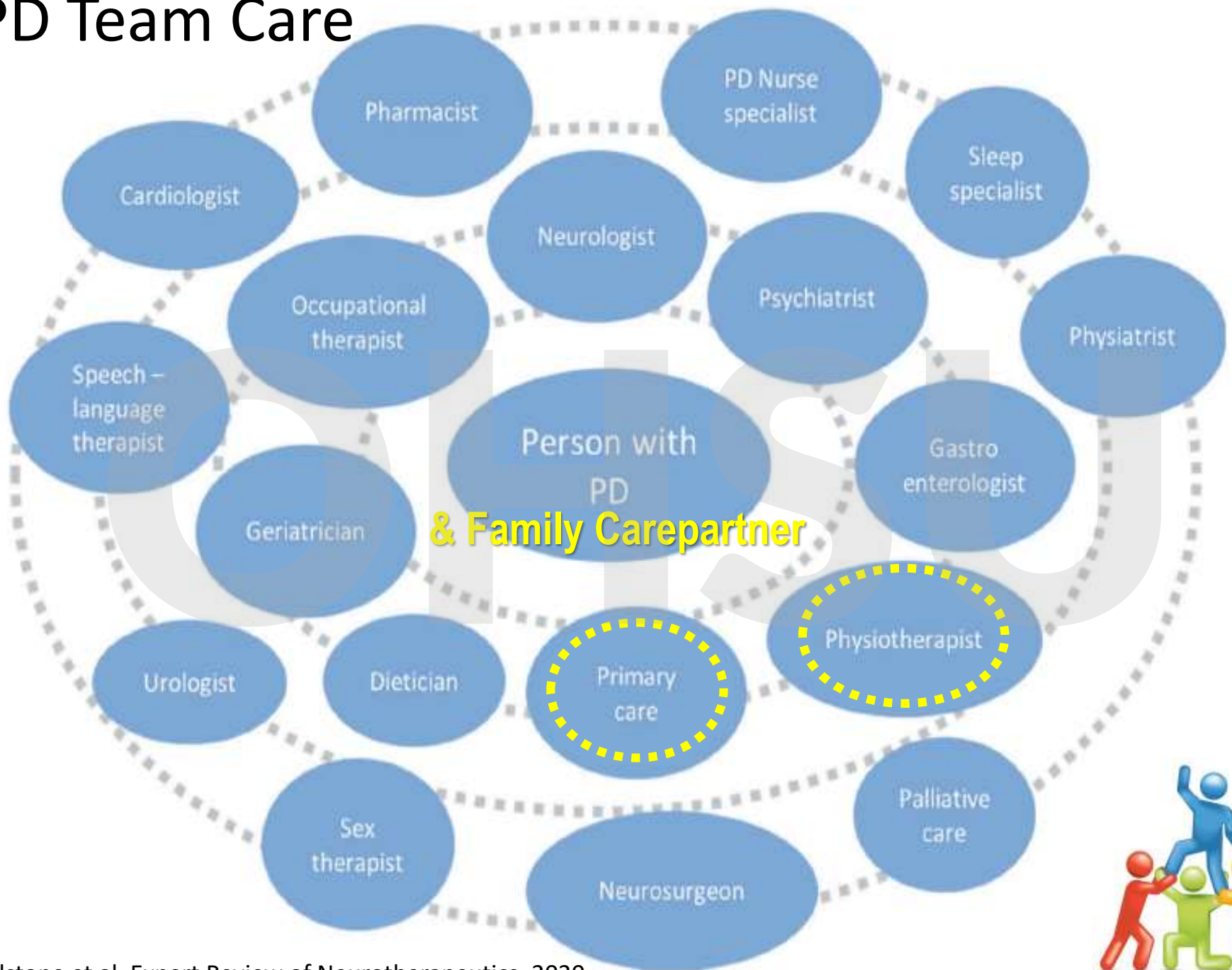
Medical co-morbidities

of meds

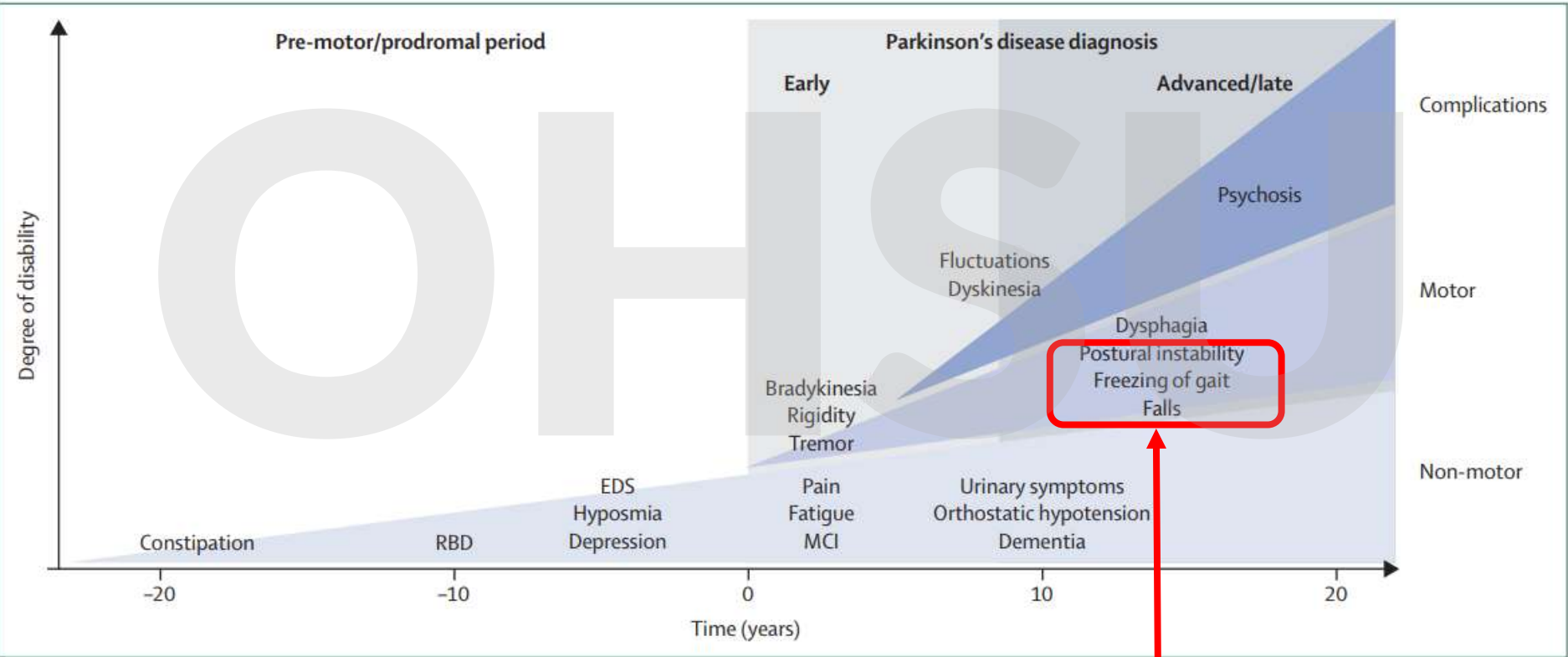
Disease severity



PD Team Care



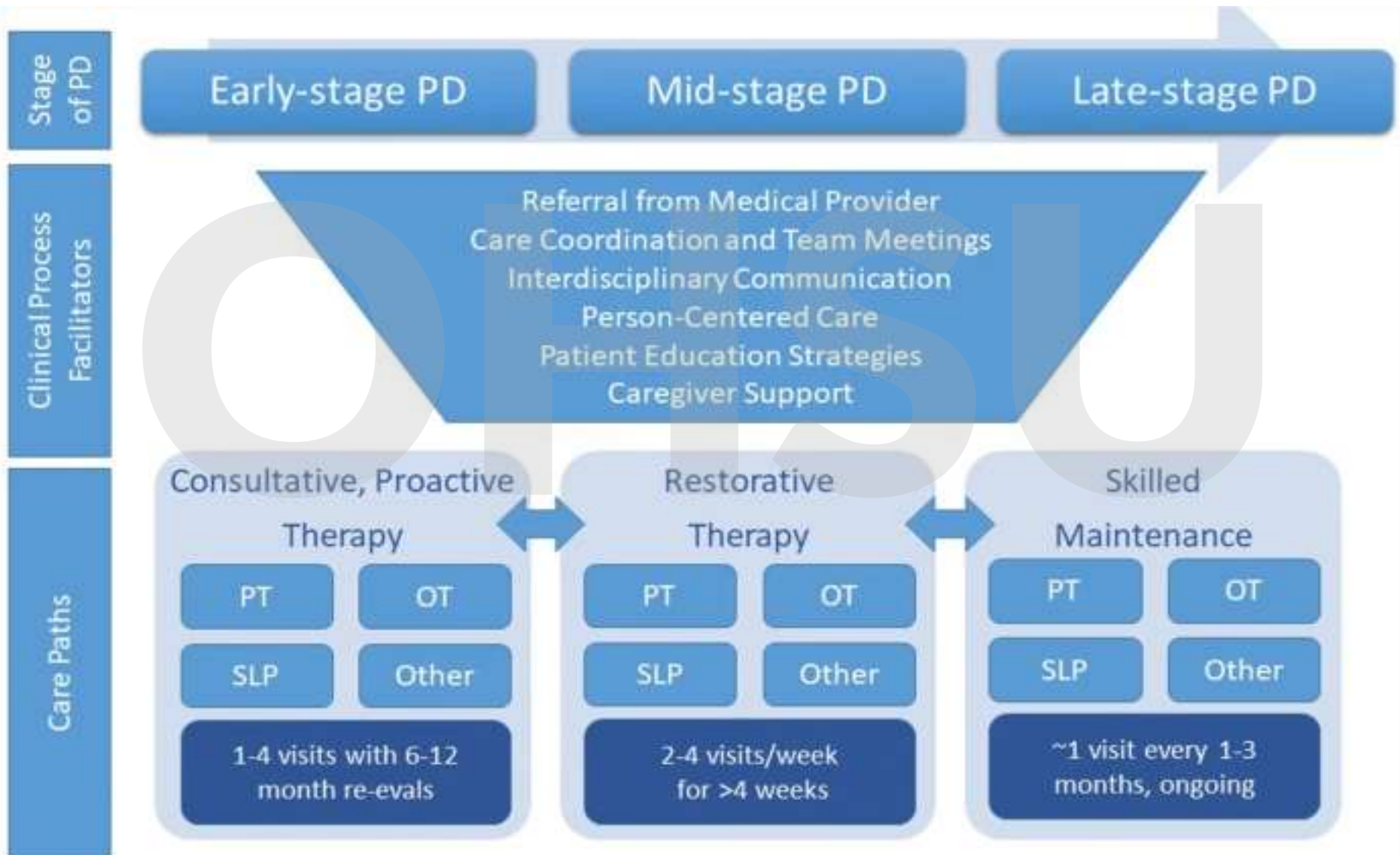
Clinical symptoms and time course of Parkinson's disease progression



Physical Therapy



Role of Physical Therapy across the stages of Parkinson's Disease



Early Stage PD: Proactive approach

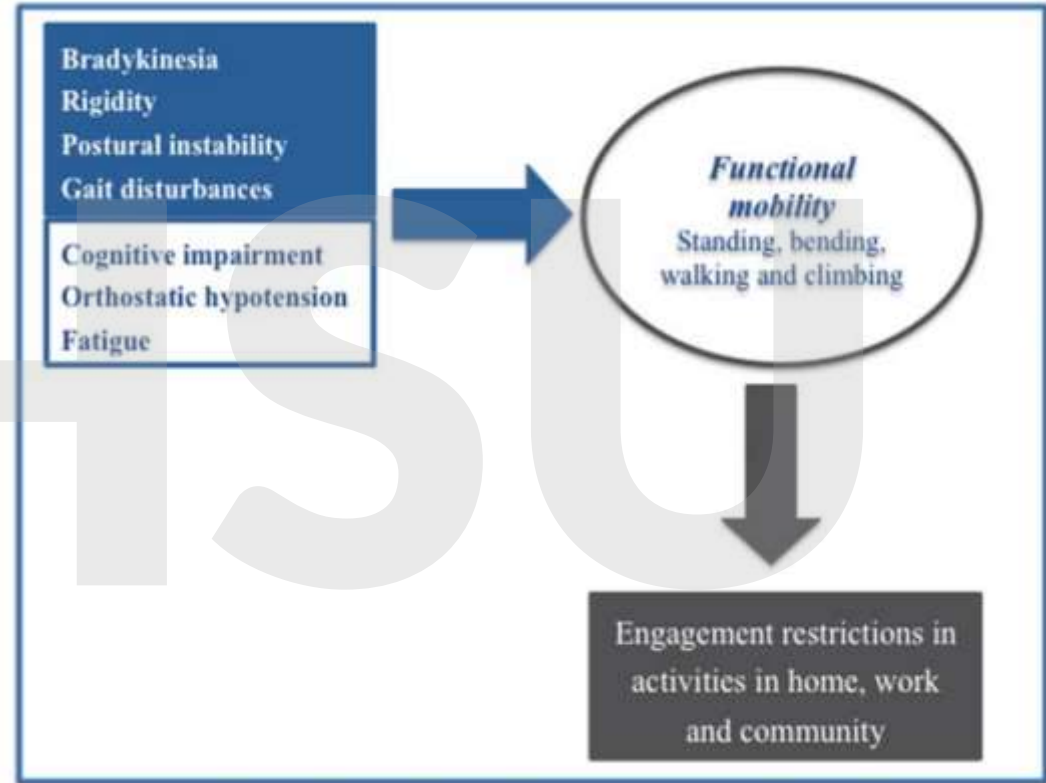
- Shortly after diagnosis
- Establish baselines
- Provide education
- Initiate exercise program
- Patient Message:
 - “You can make a difference in the course of your disease by what you choose to do”
 - Exercise
 - Cognitive fitness and creativity
 - Emotional resilience

LIFE IS:
WHAT HAPPENS
TO ME ○
WHAT I MAKE
HAPPEN ○



Mid Stage PD: Restorative therapy to promote functional improvements

- Falls: 35-90% of PWP have at least 1 fall
- Functional mobility: difficulty with sequencing
 - Standing up from a chair or toilet
 - Getting in/out of bed
 - Floor transfers
- Modifications of exercise program



Balance/Falls

Remediation

- Assessment of WHY
 - Meds/Dyskinesia
 - Orthostatic hypotension
 - Neuropathy
 - Environment
 - Posture
 - Postural instability
- Exercises to address deficits:
 - Compensatory stepping
 - Dual task training
 - Sensory Orientation training

Compensation

- Single point cane
- Bilateral trekking poles
- Walker
 - FWW: increases falls with PI
 - 4WW
 - U-step walker: with laser or metronome
- Protective equipment: knee pads, Safe hips, helmet



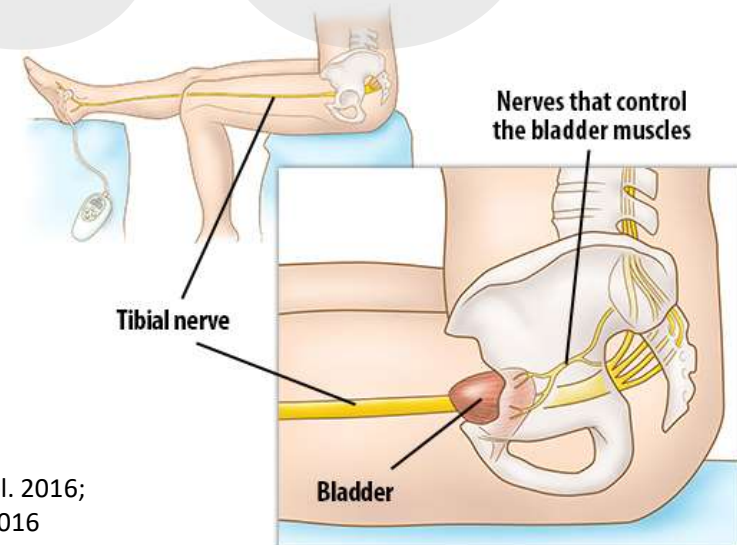
Pelvic floor PT

- **Urinary changes**

- Pelvic floor PT: Frequency
- TTNS: Transcutaneous-tibial nerve stimulation and PTNS: Percutaneous tibial nerve stimulation
 - Inhibit detrusor over-activity through afferent fibers to sacral cord
 - Potential use for both bladder and bowel issues
 - As effective as extended release oxybutynin in overactive bladder
- OT: Mechanics of toileting

- **Constipation**

- Potential for PT: abdominal mobilization/positioning/IFC



Functional Mobility

	Sit to stand	Bed mobility	Floor transfer
Exercise	Strengthening quads/gluts	Stretching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening: lunges • Stretching: hips
Sequencing	“Nose over toes”	Segmental rotation	Back chaining: crawling on bed or down onto knees
Environmental changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher chair • Lift chair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silk sheets/bottoms • Bed cane/transfer pole • Adjustable bed 	Developing plan for falls if unable to get up



Late Stage PD: Skilled Maintenance

- Equipment needs

- Wheelchairs
- Bathroom equipment
- Hospital bed
- Hoyer lift



- Transfers

- Caregiver training
- Pressure sore prevention

- Stretching

- Prevent contractures

- Pain management

- Manual therapy
- Modalities
- Tape/bracing
- Caregiver training

Pain



Musculoskeletal

Related to rigidity, postural changes and co-morbidities

Dystonia

Occurs during “off” or peak dose

Neuropathic

Radicular pain from compressive root lesions, focal or peripheral neuropathy

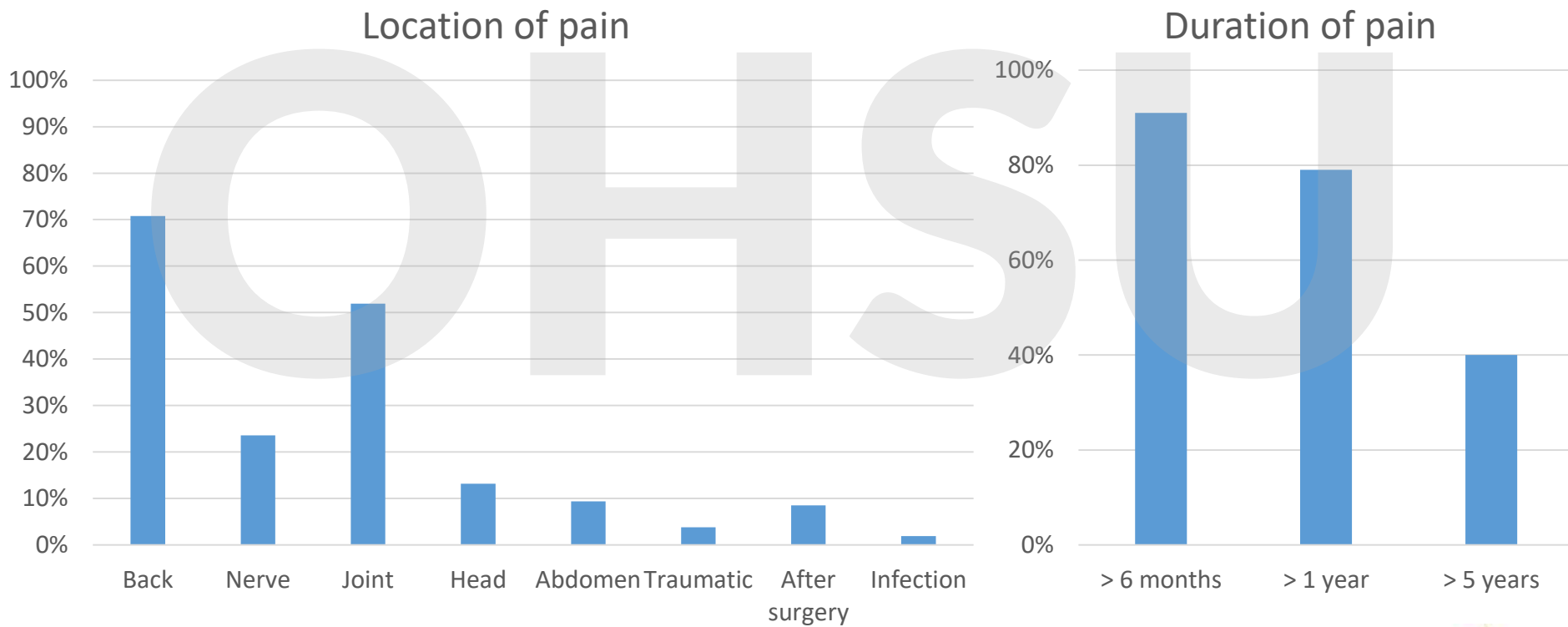
Central

Unusual burning, unrelated to motor phenomena

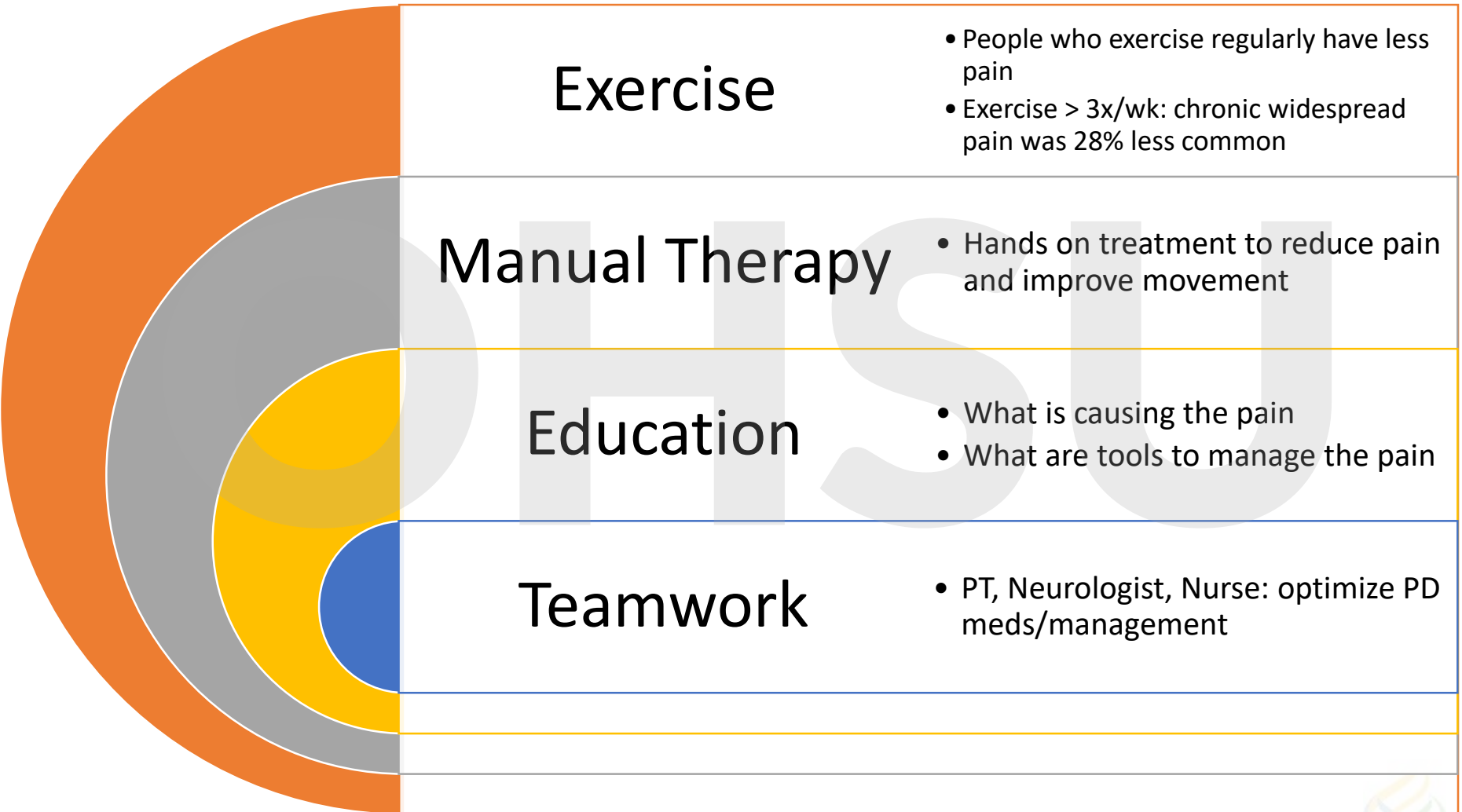
Akathisia:

Inner restlessness; Restless leg syndrome

Pain and PD: Cross-sectional survey (n =181; Germany; H&Y 1-5)



4 ways that PTs manage pain



Physical Therapy: Insurance

Commercial insurance

- Many states have direct access x 30 days: do not need physician referral
- Each plan is individual for benefits

Medicare: Outpatient Therapy

- Need a referral
- Therapy cap: ~19 visits for PT and SLP OR ~19 visits for OT... then you need to show “medical necessity”

Medicare: Home Health

- Need a referral
- Covered 100% by Medicare A
- “Homebound”
 - You need the help of someone or a device (cane/walker) to get out of the house
- It’s hard to leave home (you don’t leave often and if you do it’s not for long and something important)

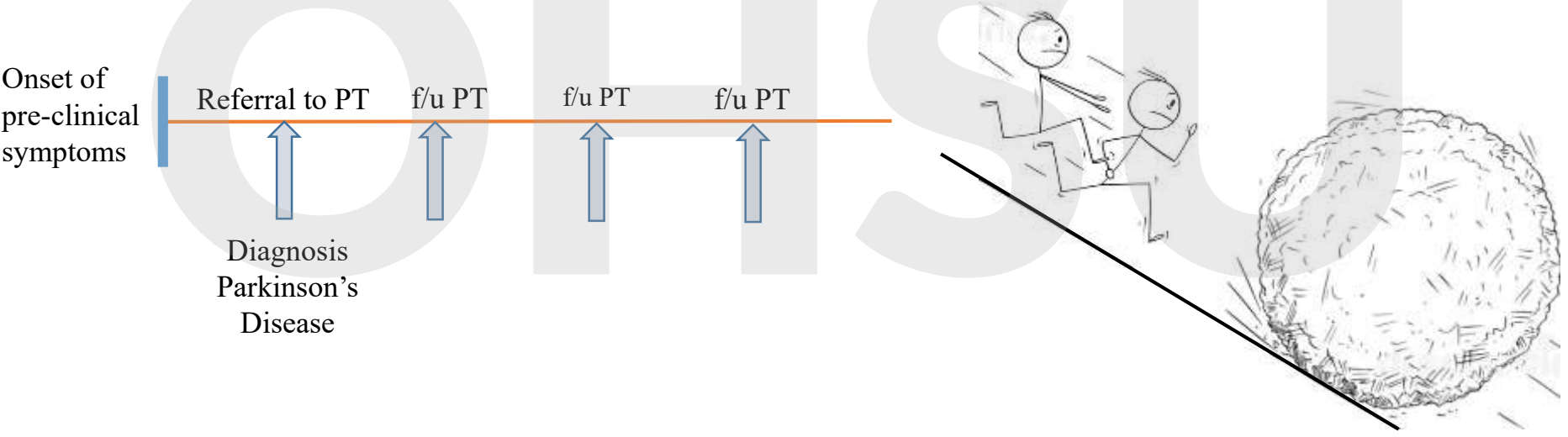
What could trigger a PT referral?

- What exercise is the **best** exercise?
- Is there a way to improve balance/decrease falls?
- How can I help my partner with transfers without getting hurt?
- What can I do about my pain?
- What type of mobility equipment should I have?



When should I come to Physical Therapy? Proactive vs Reactive

“Dentist model”: Check in’s every 6 months



Summary

- Exercise is a vital treatment component in PD
- Early referrals benefit patient but PT is useful throughout progression of PD

Prevention

- Early in the disease
- Neuro-plasticity
- Exercises targeted for future problems

Reaction

- Identify limitations
- Problem solve
- Exercises to address deficits

Compensation

- Assistive equipment
- QOL goals: safety vs independence
- Caregiver training

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Thank You
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