

## **Pain associated with movement problems in Parkinson's disease**

[Pain and motor complications in Parkinson's disease  
M Tinazzi et al JNNP July 2006]

Pain seems to reflect the severity of movement problems in Parkinson's disease, reveals an Italian study of 117 people. Four out of 10 people (47) reported pain, which was associated with involuntary movement and muscle spasm (dystonia) in 19. In 16 patients the source was not related to Parkinson's disease, while 12 people reported both types of pain. Those with movement problems were almost six times as likely to experience pain, and its severity reflected the severity of the movement disorder, rather than the disease itself.

The fact that some patients reported pain on the side of the body that was not affected by Parkinson's disease suggests that it is not merely a consequence of motor complications, say the authors. Rather, pain and movement problems may share certain physiological factors, they suggest. Pain tended not to be associated with disturbances in dopamine levels, caused by drug treatment, which implicates other factors, say the authors, who go on to say that Parkinson's disease may boost vulnerability to pain.