

proteins, α -synuclein and ubiquitin . Many studies have reported the detection of α synuclein in biological fluids such as cerebrospinal fluid and plasma of PD patients. It is a matter of debate if plasma α -synuclein is a protein secreted by normal neurons or released by damaged neurons. This research group has found high

concentrations of plasma α -synuclein in PD patients. But the most interesting think is that, in newly diagnosed PD patients, and before any medication, plasma α -synuclein is increased. Thus, this blood protein may be used for PD diagnose. So far, this is the first report (in press) reporting changes in α -synuclein in early diagnosed patients without treatment. The increased concentration of α -synuclein found in PD patients with and without treatment suggest that LBs are associated to neurodegeneration and that this is an early event in PD. Medication directed to prevent α -synuclein aggregates may be useful to PD treatment.

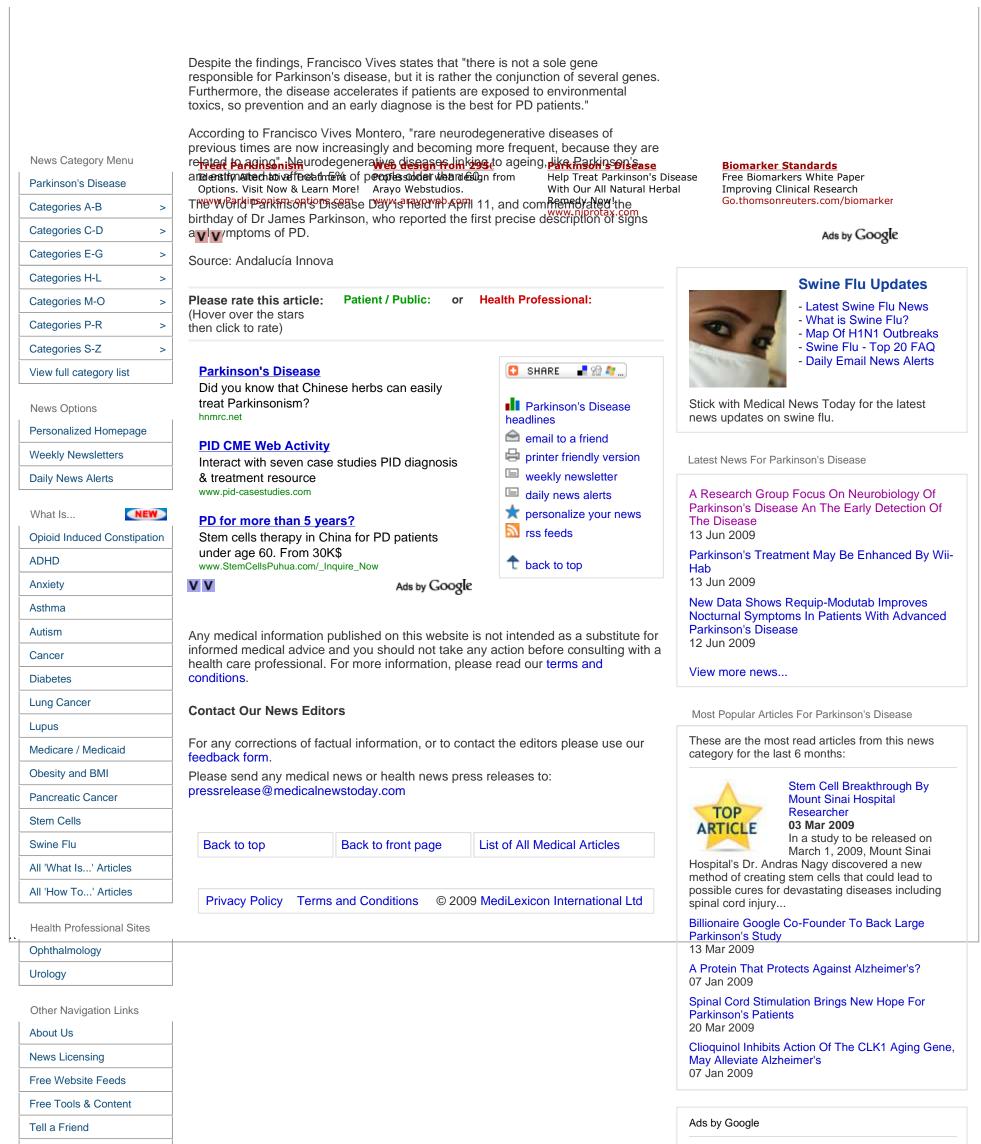
PARK-6

Sporadic Parkinson's, associated to age, is the most frequent form of PD. However, and according to experts, genetic predisposition and environmental factors play a key role in the development of the disease.

The Granada research team, with the help of researchers from the Nuclear Medicine Department of the Goethe University (Germany), have studied genetic alterations in several families from the province of Granada, with various of its members affected of PD. In all these families, there have been cases of Parkinson's at an early age. The genetic analysis proved that the presence of a polymorphism in a specific gene (PARK6) is very frequent in those families.

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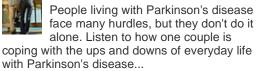
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