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978-0-521-62884-6 - Parkinson's Disease and Parkinsonism in the Elderly

Edited by Jolyon Meara and William C Koller

Frontmatter

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## Parkinson's disease and parkinsonism in the elderly

Parkinson's disease and parkinsonism are particular problems in the elderly, causing disability and impairing quality of life. This book covers the clinical features, diagnosis and management of Parkinson's disease in elderly people, dealing not only with the motor symptoms but also problems such as depression and autonomic nervous system dysfunction. It stresses particularly the importance of rehabilitation and total patient care.

Topics covered include:

- Differential diagnosis and epidemiology
- Drug-induced parkinsonism and gait apraxia
- The drug treatment of elderly patients
- Cognitive impairment in elderly patients with Parkinson's disease
- The multidisciplinary rehabilitation team

A comprehensive, practical and enlightened account of Parkinson's disease in the elderly, drawing on international experts, this book will appeal to clinicians in the various disciplines involved with neurological disease and rehabilitation in elderly people.

**Jolyon Meara** is Senior Lecturer in Geriatric Medicine at the University of Wales College of Medicine.

**William C. Koller** is Professor of Neurology at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

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# Parkinson's disease and parkinsonism in the elderly

Edited by

Dr Jolyon Meara

University Department of Geriatric Medicine (North Wales)

and

Professor William C Koller

University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City



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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Contents

	<i>List of contributors</i>	page vii
	<i>Foreword</i>	ix
<b>1</b>	<b>A glossary of terms</b>	1
	Jolyon Meara	
<b>2</b>	<b>Diagnosis of parkinsonism in the elderly</b>	4
	Robert L. Rodnitzky	
<b>3</b>	<b>Parkinson's disease and parkinsonism in the elderly</b>	22
	Jolyon Meara and Bimal K. Bhowmick	
<b>4</b>	<b>Drug-induced parkinsonism in the elderly</b>	64
	Jean P. Hubble	
<b>5</b>	<b>Essential tremor in the elderly</b>	80
	Rajesh Pahwa and William C. Koller	
<b>6</b>	<b>Gait apraxia and multi-infarct states</b>	98
	Richard Liston and Raymond C. Tallis	
<b>7</b>	<b>The epidemiology of Parkinson's disease and parkinsonism in elderly subjects</b>	111
	Jolyon Meara and Peter Hobson	
<b>8</b>	<b>Health and social needs of people with Parkinson's disease and the worldwide organization of their care</b>	122
	Peter Hobson	
<b>9</b>	<b>The drug treatment of Parkinson's disease in elderly people</b>	134
	Theresa A. Zesiewicz and Robert A. Hauser	

v

Cambridge University Press

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

<b>vi</b>	<b>Contents</b>	
<b>10</b>	<b>Rehabilitation in Parkinson's disease and parkinsonism</b>	165
	Christopher D. Ward	
<b>11</b>	<b>Rehabilitation, nursing and elderly patients with Parkinson's disease</b>	185
	Sally Roberts	
<b>12</b>	<b>Rehabilitation, physiotherapy and elderly patients with Parkinson's disease</b>	198
	Hilary Chatterton and Brenda Lövgreen	
<b>13</b>	<b>Rehabilitation, occupational therapy and elderly patients with Parkinson's disease</b>	217
	Jackie Hughes	
<b>14</b>	<b>Rehabilitation, speech and language therapy and elderly patients with Parkinson's disease</b>	226
	Sheena Round	
	<i>Index</i>	240

Cambridge University Press

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[More information](#)

## Contributors

**Bimal K. Bhowmick MD FRCP**

Consultant Physician in Geriatric Medicine,  
Glan Clwyd District General Hospital, Rhyl,  
Denbighshire, North Wales LL18 5UJ, UK.

**Hilary Chatterton MSc MCSP**

Lecturer, School of Physiotherapy,  
Manchester Royal Infirmary, Manchester  
M13 9WL, UK.

**Robert A. Hauser MD**

Associate Professor, College of Medicine,  
University of South Florida, Department of  
Neurology, Harbour Side, Medical Tower, 4  
Columbia Drive, Suite 410, Tampa, Florida  
33606, USA.

**Peter Hobson BSc**

University Department of Geriatric  
Medicine, Glan Clwyd District General  
Hospital, Rhyl, Denbighshire, North Wales  
LL18 5UJ, UK.

**Jean P. Hubble MD**

Co-Medical Director, The Ohio State  
University, University Medical Center, 1581  
Dodd Drive, McCampbell Hall, Suite 371,  
Columbus, Ohio 43210, USA.

**Jackie Hughes Dip COT**

Occupational Therapist, Colwyn Bay  
Community Hospital, Colwyn Bay, Conwy,  
North Wales LL29 8AY, UK.

**William C. Koller MD PhD**

Professor and Chairman, Department of  
Neurology, The University of Kansas  
Medical Center, 3901 Rainbow Boulevard,  
Kansas City, Kansas 66160, USA.

**Richard Liston FRCP**

Consultant Physician in Geriatric Medicine,  
Tralee General Hospital, Tralee, County  
Kerry, Eire

**Brenda Lövgreen MSc MCSP**

Lecturer, School of Physiotherapy,  
Manchester Royal Infirmary, Manchester  
M13 9WL, UK.

**Jolyon Meara MD FRCP**

Senior Lecturer in Geriatric Medicine,  
University of Wales College of Medicine,  
Glan Clwyd District General Hospital, Rhyl,  
Denbighshire, North Wales LL18 5UJ, UK.

**Rajesh Pahwa MD**

Assistant Professor, Department of  
Neurology, School of Medicine, The  
University of Kansas Medical Center,  
3901 Rainbow Boulevard, Kansas City,  
Kansas 66160, USA.

**Sally Roberts RGN**

Parkinson's Disease Nurse, Health Care of  
the Elderly Department, Glan Clwyd District  
Hospital, Rhyl, Denbighshire, North Wales  
LL18 5UJ, UK.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

**viii** **List of contributors**

**Robert L. Rodnitzky MD**

Professor of Neurology, The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Department of Neurology, 200 Hawkins Drive, Iowa City, Iowa 52242–1053, USA.

**Sheena Round BSc Dip CCS MCSLT**

Speech and Language Therapist, Glan Clwyd District General Hospital, Rhyl, Denbighshire, North Wales LL18 5UJ, UK.

**Raymond C. Tallis D Litt FRCP**

Professor of Geriatric Medicine, The University of Manchester, Hope Hospital, Manchester M6 8HD, UK.

**Christopher D. Ward MD FRCP**

Professor of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Nottingham, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Rehabilitation Research Unit, Derby City General Hospital, Uttoxeter Road, Derby DE22 3NE, UK.

**Theresa A. Zesiewicz MD**

Associate Professor of Neurology, College of Medicine, University of South Florida, Department of Neurology, Harbour Side Medical Tower, 4 Columbia Drive, Suite 410, Tampa, Florida 33606, USA.

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## Foreword

No illness can be contained in a vacuum and Parkinson's disease is no exception. Legislation by Governments, awareness and real understanding of this challenging illness by the healthcare professionals, and the change in the demographic profile of our nation will have major implications for the families impacted by this illness.

The population of the world is living longer and with old age there are increasing numbers of chronic neurological illness such as stroke, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's – and yet these people attract scant attention. Parkinson's in the elderly is a common clinical problem. Failure to manage it well results in distress and guilt within a family and expenditure of untargeted resources within the community.

This book examines the diagnosis and the management of Parkinson's in both the UK and USA. The editors are distinguished not only by their expertise in the management of Parkinson's but also well known for their compassion and desire to improve services.

Our elderly population should benefit from the contents of this book and I rejoice that such eminent people have given their time and expertise to contribute to such a worthwhile project.

**Mary G Baker MBE**

*President of the European Parkinson's Disease Association (EPDA)*