

History of Psychosis in Parkinson's Disease

1800

The first description of Parkinson's disease (PD) occurred in **1817** in James Parkinson's "An essay on the Shaking Palsy." Decades later, the neurologist William Gowers noted that psychotic symptoms were occasionally seen in PD, but he did not think they were directly associated with the pathological process of Parkinson's. As time went on, the connection between PD and psychosis became clearer.

1850

Between **1880 and 1920**, several psychiatrists reported hallucinations among their PD patients, and the previous belief that "mental disturbances" in PD were completely separate from the disease was rejected.

1900

Later, focus on the psychotic symptoms in PD increased as many survivors of the **1920s** encephalitis epidemic presented with Parkinsonisms and mental disturbances.

1950

Since the **1960s**, we have seen PDP prevalence increase as dopamine-replacement therapy has been used to control motor symptoms.

In the **1970s**, researchers noted that treatment with levodopa could exacerbate or cause psychotic symptoms and that lowering doses of levodopa could sometimes resolve them.

2000

In the **1990s**, researchers found that several antipsychotic drugs could be used to treat PD-associated psychosis, including clozapine and seroquel.

In **2016**, the FDA approved the first drug specifically designed to treat Parkinson's disease psychosis.

For more information on psychosis associated with PD, order the book Psychosis: A Mind Guide to Parkinson's.