

# What is Corticobasal Syndrome?

## **What is Corticobasal Syndrome (CBS)?**

Corticobasal Syndrome (CBS) is a rare neurological disease in which certain parts of the brain degenerate. More specifically, neurodegeneration in CBS affects the cerebral cortex and the basal ganglia affecting neurons involved in thinking, speech, and sensory perception occur, and coordination of movement. Additionally, CBS is an Atypical Parkinsonism characterized by an unusual difficulty in performing complex limb movements.

**Symptoms** of CBS usually begin after age 60 and often include stiffness, shakiness, jerkiness, slowness, and clumsiness, in either one arm or leg. Other initial symptoms may include difficulty with speech generation and articulation, difficulty controlling the muscles of the face and mouth, or walking and balance difficulties. Symptoms usually begin on one side of the body and spread gradually to the other.

Another important symptom is apraxia or the loss of the ability to perform complex movements that required some practice to begin with such as using tools and instruments. People with CBS often have a tendency to hold a limb in a fixed position called dystonia, and can also experience very brisk and irregular involuntary jerks of a limb called myoclonus.

Unlike Parkinson's Disease, CBS usually has little tremor. Unlike progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP), CBS has only mild problems with balance and eye movements. However, CBS does have features that these other diseases usually lack such as apraxia, dystonia, and myoclonus.

## **Some resources you may consult for CBS education and support:**

Cure PSP

[www.psp.org](http://www.psp.org)

PSP Society of Canada

[www.pspocietycanada.ca](http://www.pspocietycanada.ca)

Parkinson Canada

[www.parkinson.ca/about-parkinsons/atypical-parkinsonisms/](http://www.parkinson.ca/about-parkinsons/atypical-parkinsonisms/)

Brain Support Network

[www.brainsupportnetwork.org/education/atypical-parkinsons/](http://www.brainsupportnetwork.org/education/atypical-parkinsons/)