



Q: My dad has become slower in his movements. He has no tremors of his hands. Could he still be developing Parkinson's disease?

A: Slowness of movement is a recognized clinical feature of Parkinson's disease. This can be an early sign of this disorder and can occur without hand tremors. It is a very frustrating and disabling symptom affecting many activities of daily living such as dressing, writing, shaving, combing hair or making a sandwich. The slowness of movement is most evident with tasks requiring fine motor control (for example, buttoning the shirt). Muscles of facial expression, speech and eye blinking may also be affected.

A detailed neurologic examination may unearth further clues that may point towards the diagnosis of Parkinson's disease. Other causes of slowness and conditions that mimic Parkinson's disease may need to be excluded.

For more information, visit the website of the Kalamazoo Nerve Center.

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