Corticobasal Degeneration (CBD)
Corticobasal Ganglionic Degeneration (CBGD)

Corticobasal degeneration (CBD) is a disorder in which parts of the brain worsen (*deteriorate*) and stop working normally. It is also known as corticobasal ganglionic degeneration (CBGD). The cause of this disorder is unknown.

Problems will be worse on one side of the body. There may be problems moving the arms or having a lack of co-ordination. The arms may seem to move on their own. There may be changes in the way sensations are felt. There may be loss of ability to understand or talk. There may be personality changes, changes in everyday behavior, and problems with memory.

DIAGNOSIS

- This is a difficult illness to diagnose. After death, about half of the people diagnosed with this disease are found not to have it. A number of people with a diagnosis of CBD are found to have Alzheimer's disease, Pick's disease or other rare disorders of the brain.
- When there is enough damage to the brain, special X-ray studies such as MRI or CT show changes. These changes are similar to other diseases in which the brain degenerates or wastes away.
- The exact diagnosis is usually made at death if an autopsy is done. The brain can then be examined under a microscope. At that time, an abnormal protein is found in the brain.

TREATMENT

Most medications provide little help. Your caregiver may have some medications that may be helpful.

PROGNOSIS

- The outcome of this disease is death and usually follows the diagnosis by several years.
- Physical therapy and speech therapy may be helpful for a while. The disease usually progresses and will continue to get worse. Getting involved with foundations such as the Alzheimer's Foundation can help you do the best for your loved one.
- Much research is being done that may eventually help people with this disease.

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