Striatonigral Degeneration

Striatonigral degeneration is a neurological disorder. It is caused by a disruption in the connection between two areas of the brain. They are the striatum and the substantia nigra. These two areas work together. They enable balance and movement. This disorder is a type of multiple system atrophy (MSA).

SYMPTOMS

Symptoms resemble some of those seen in Parkinson's disease. They include:

- Rigidity.
- Instability.
- Impaired speech.
- Slow movements.

TREATMENT

There is no cure for this disorder. Treatments for it have varied success. Treatments used for Parkinson's disease are recommended. But, unlike Parkinson's, this disorder does not respond to levodopa. Dopamine and anticholinergics provide some benefit. Generally, treatment is reassessed as the disorder progresses.

This disorder progresses slowly. Some patients have normal life expectancy.

RESEARCH BEING DONE

The NINDS supports and conducts research on disorders of the brain and nervous system. This includes striatonigral degeneration. This research focuses on finding ways to prevent and treat these disorders.

Research is continually being done to learn more about this problem.

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