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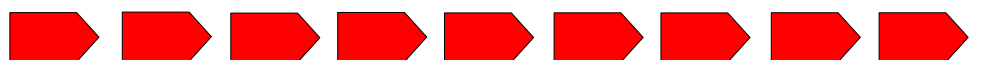


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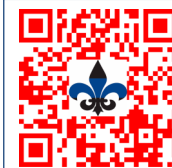
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## \*\*\* Parkinson's ... Continued \*\*\*

Scientists are working to better understand the broad range of environmental exposures linked to Parkinson's disease. While the exact cause of Parkinson's disease is unknown, most experts agree that the condition is caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors (chemicals from occupational exposure or rural living, head trauma, etc.). Some experts explain it this way: genes load the gun and environment pulls the trigger.

We know that exposure to certain environmental factors increases an individual's risk of developing Parkinson's disease, but exposure to any one of these factors doesn't mean a person will actually develop the disease. In most people with Parkinson's, it's a collection of factors acting synergistically that ultimately leads to symptoms and a diagnosis.

### Non-Genetic Risk Factors For Parkinson's Disease

While age is the biggest risk factor for Parkinson's, many chemicals used in various professions – such as welding, farming, military activities and industrial processes – have been associated with the disease. Some specific chemicals and other factors are listed below:

- Insecticides: permethrin and beta-hexachlorocyclohexane (beta-HCH)
- Herbicides: paraquat and 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid
- Fungicide: maneb
- Agent Orange used in the Vietnam War
- MPTP, a synthetic neurotoxin (can cause Parkinsonism)
- **Head injuries**

### Genetics and Parkinson's Disease

Some research shows that having a first-degree relative with Parkinson's disease, such as a mother, father or sibling, increases your risk of Parkinson's twofold. People with an affected first-degree relative have about a three percent lifetime risk, as compared to people in the general population who have a 1 to 1.5 percent lifetime risk. So even if Parkinson's runs in your family, the chance of you going on to develop the disease is still very low.

If Parkinson's runs in your family and you want to get genetically tested, you should consult with a genetic counselor first. It's a good idea to discuss the reasons for doing the testing and the impact it may have on you and your family.

**Parkinson's Disease!** Boundless information is available! Please research and learn more about this fascinating subject! **ggd** 😊



Muhammad Ali, Billy Graham, Michael J. Fox, Pope John Paul II, Janet Reno and Robin Williams ... A Few "Famous Faces Of Parkinson's Disease."