

Corticobasal Syndrome (CBS)

Corticobasal syndrome (CBS) is a rare, progressive neurological disorder characterized by a combination of movement disorders, cognitive impairment, and other neurological symptoms. It is a type of atypical parkinsonism that typically begins in people over 60 years of age.

CBS is caused by the progressive degeneration of nerve cells in the brain, which leads to the abnormal accumulation of proteins in the brain known as tau proteins, although proteins such as amyloid and TDP-43 have been implicated in some cases. The accumulation of these proteins causes the death of brain cells and the disruption of the normal functioning of the brain.

The symptoms of CBS can vary from person to person and typically develop gradually over time. The most common symptoms include difficulty with movement, such as stiffness, tremors, and difficulty with coordination. Other symptoms may include cognitive impairment, such as difficulty with memory, language, and problem-solving, as well as changes in behaviour, such as apathy, impulsivity, and emotional lability.

The diagnosis of CBS is made based on a thorough medical history and neurological examination, as well as imaging studies such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and positron emission tomography (PET) scans. There is currently no single diagnostic test for CBS.

There is no cure for CBS, and treatment is mainly focused on managing the symptoms of the disease. Medications such as levodopa, which is used to treat Parkinson's disease (PD), may be helpful in managing the movement symptoms of CBS, but are typically less effective than when used in PD.

Other medications, such as antidepressants and antipsychotics, may also be used to manage the cognitive and behavioural symptoms of the disease.

In addition to medication, physical therapy and occupational therapy may also be helpful in managing the movement symptoms of CBS. These therapies can help improve mobility, balance, and coordination, as well as maintain independence in daily activities.

Overall, the management of CBS is complex and requires a multidisciplinary approach involving the expertise of a neurologist, physical therapist, occupational therapist, and other healthcare providers. The goal of treatment is to improve quality of life and maintain independence for as long as possible.

If you have been diagnosed with CBS and are looking for further support [The PSP Association](#) provide information and support for patients with CBS. [The Brain Charity](#) also provides support for patients with all neurological diagnoses.