

# Study: Migraine Linked to Parkinson's Disease

People who have migraines may be more likely to develop Parkinson's disease, according to a new study that adds to the evidence of a link between the two ailments.

Migraine is the most common brain disorder in both men and women; it's estimated that 18 percent of women and six percent of men experience this type of severe headache.

The new study people who with two diagnosed migraines in a single year were more likely to develop Parkinson's disease during the next three years, Taiwanese researchers say.

Previous research finds that middle-aged people who get migraines are more likely to develop movement disorders and those who also get auras are at double the risk.

The researchers matched 41,019 people between the age of 40 and 90 that visited ambulatory care centers for migraine with a similar number of people with no migraine history.

Over the next 32 months, 148 patients in the migraine group and 101 patients in the non-migraine group were diagnosed with Parkinson's, suggesting statistically significant increase in the disease's risk for the migranieurs, according to the study, which appears in *Cephalalgia*.

There is no known cause for the link but there is speculation that a dysfunction in the brain's chemical messenger dopamine may be the common factor in the two diseases.

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