

# AT A GLANCE: Disease Summaries and Symptoms

## Corticobasal Degeneration (CBD)

**CBD is a terminal degenerative neurological condition.** The difficulty in diagnosing CBD has led to the creation of red flags to act as warning signs that may raise clinical suspicion of CBD.

- Rare neurodegenerative brain disease that affects the cortex (frontoparietal) and basal ganglia
- Originally described in 1968 by Drs. Rebeiz, Kolodny, and Richardson with earliest descriptions by Charcot (1888)
- Pathologically classified as a tauopathy (accumulation of the tau protein in the brain)
- Onset of symptoms is markedly asymmetrical
- Diagnosis is difficult because clinical features often overlap with Parkinson's disease, progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP), Alzheimer's disease, primary progressive aphasia (PPA), and frontotemporal dementia (FTD)
- Average age of onset usually between 60-80 years
- Prevalence unknown; estimated to be less than one case per 100,000 people
- Slightly more common in women
- Life expectancy is seven to 10 years following symptom onset
- No known cure or medications to slow disease progression

### Signs and Symptoms

- Asymmetrical presentation; symptoms begin on one side and always remain worse
- Slowness and stiffness
- Shakiness
- Clumsiness in UEs or LEs
- Dysphasia, dysarthria, and dysphagia
- Changes in gait and balance
- Mild memory or behavior problems
- Increased parkinsonian symptoms (rigidity, bradykinesia, postural instability)
- Tremor
- Myoclonus
- Dystonia
- Blepharospasm (involuntary eyelid spasm)
- Sensory loss
- Increasing speech and swallowing difficulty
- Mild to moderate cognitive impairments
- Frontal dementia

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