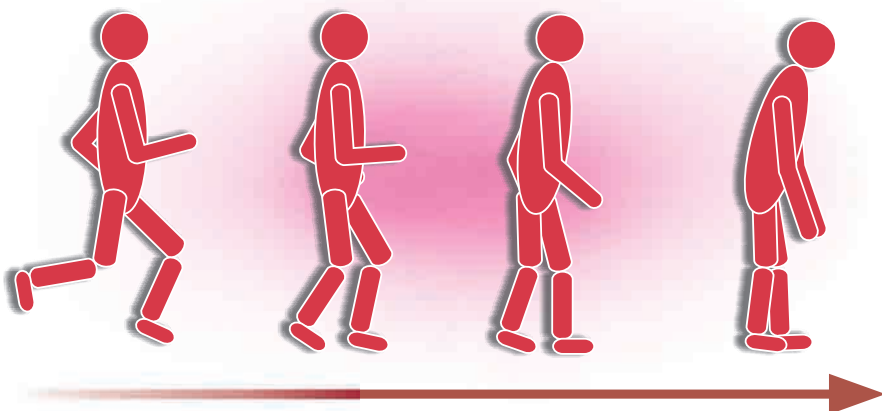


The Treatment of Advanced Parkinson's Disease

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in collaboration with
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MEDICINE - STATE OF THE ART

UNI-MED Verlag AG, one of the leading medical publishing companies in Germany, presents its highly successful series of scientific textbooks, covering all medical subjects. The authors are specialists in their fields and present the topics precisely, comprehensively, and with the facility of quick reference in mind. The books will be most useful for all doctors who wish to keep up to date with the latest developments in medicine.

We greatly appreciate and acknowledge the collaboration of Dr Shreelatta Datta.

Preface and acknowledgements

In spite of optimal treatment, the later stages of Parkinson's disease are associated with an increasing number of complications. Generally, the "Treatment of Advanced Parkinson's Disease" requires complex therapeutic medication schemes, which need to be worked out for each patient individually. In a growing number of cases, special forms of treatment (e.g. apomorphine pump, duodopa pump) are used, which are available only in selected centers. In addition, deep brain stimulation has become more important over the recent years. It is now a standard part of therapy and considered to be one of the effective methods of treatment in advanced stages of the illness.

In this textbook, you will find articles about the potential motor and nonmotor dysfunctions in the later phase of Parkinson's disease. We intend to illustrate "state of the art" and innovative approaches to medication and nondrug therapy. The book also features an article on future modes of treatment.

"The Treatment of Advanced Parkinson's Disease" is a joint project by members of the German Competence Network (Kompetenznetz Parkinson - KNP). This association was formed in 1999 by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung BMBF) in Germany, now has over 40 members and consists of university hospitals, municipal hospitals, specialized clinics and specialised medical offices of neurologists who focus on the clinical syndromes of Parkinson's disease.

This volume is proof of the excellent cooperation between the coauthors, who agreed to offer their competence without hesitation.

I hope the reader finds up-to-date information here, which is relevant for everyday practice - especially if one considers the current economical framework of our health system.

Marburg, April 2008

*Wolfgang H. Oertel
Speaker Competence Network Parkinson*

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