

Loss of Smell

Many patients with Parkinson's experience a loss of smell years before they notice other symptoms and are diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. Whether it comes before diagnosis or develops after diagnosis, up to 95% of Parkinson's patients experience a reduction in or complete loss of their ability to smell.

Why is Smell Affected?

The most popular theory is that Parkinson's Disease attacks the olfactory bulb in the brain and makes it shrink and limits its ability to function properly. The olfactory bulb's only job is to interpret things you are smelling in your environment.

What to Know as a Care Partner:

- Your loved one may have a difficult time telling if food has expired
- Your loved one may have difficulty smelling smoke or gas in the home
- Your loved one's taste and food preferences may be affected because tasting is 50% smell
- Your loved one may experience a loss of appetite
- Sense of smell does not improve with Parkinson's medications