

# LIVING WELL WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Spring 2025



## FDA Approves New Infusion-based Treatments for Parkinson's Vyalev

excerpted from: [www.michaeljfox.org](http://www.michaeljfox.org)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved AbbVie's Vyalev, an infusion-based Parkinson's treatment that is shown to increase "on" time (when symptoms are well controlled) by providing a continuous source of levodopa/carbidopa.

The innovation here lies in how the medication is delivered: through a continuous pump, much like the one used by people who receive insulin therapy for diabetes. The steady infusion of levodopa/carbidopa has been shown to reduce fluctuations in an individual's symptoms (motor fluctuations) and give more "on" time compared to oral levodopa/carbidopa.

In a Phase 3 study, the treatment provided roughly three additional hours of "on" time for people with advanced Parkinson's. The study admitted people who were taking a minimum of 400 milligrams/day (mg/day) of levodopa equivalents but still experiencing inadequately controlled motor symptoms, such as tremor or issues walking. Participants had at least 2.5 hours of "off" time (when symptoms are not well-controlled) each day. "More treatment options, especially those that can help as the disease progresses, have the potential to make a big difference in the lives of so many people and families with Parkinson's," says MJFF's principal medical advisor Rachel Dolhun, MD, DipAB

Parkinson's disease disrupts dopamine production in the brain, leading to the symptoms most associated with PD. Levodopa helps temporarily replace some of the lost dopamine; carbidopa helps improve uptake of levodopa. Vyalev delivers these medications continuously.

Vyalev is intended to treat people with progressing Parkinson's who benefit from oral levodopa/carbidopa but do not have satisfactory control of symptoms and experience significant motor fluctuations, including "off" time and/or bothersome dyskinesia. As with all medication decisions, it is best to discuss with your care provider to see if Vyalev meets your individual needs.

It's worth noting that while the treatment has FDA approval, there are still additional government and regulatory processes to complete before it will be widely available and covered by insurance, including Medicare. This could take several months or more. AbbVie expects Medicare coverage by the second half of 2025.

## Onapgo

excerpted from: [www.michaeljfox.org](http://www.michaeljfox.org)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on February 4, 2025, approved Onapgo (apomorphine hydrochloride), a new Parkinson's therapy for people with progressing Parkinson's disease who experience significant "off" time (when symptoms are not controlled) or motor fluctuations, which are ups and downs in symptom control throughout the day. Onapgo uses a continuous, under-the-skin infusion to deliver apomorphine, a drug that helps control motor symptoms such as tremor. It is the first infusion-based apomorphine therapy approved in the U.S. for Parkinson's disease.

Onapgo may be an option for people who experience motor fluctuations or significant amounts of "off" time, which are not adequately managed with existing medications for motor symptoms.

Infused apomorphine is already available in several other countries. Apomorphine also is available, in the U.S. and elsewhere, as an under-the-skin, self-administered injection (Apokyn), which can be used as needed for sudden, unexpected "off" times, in addition to a person's daily regimen of PD medications.

Onapgo operates similarly to Vyalev, except it provides a constant supply of apomorphine. Consistent dosing aims to provide more consistent control of motor symptoms like tremor, slowness and stiffness, particularly in people with progressing Parkinson's who may not achieve adequate symptom control with pills or who experience motor fluctuations.



**Parkinson's Support Group (Virtual)**  
Meets the third Tuesday of every month from 2:00PM-3:30PM.

**Caregivers Support Group (Virtual)**  
Meets the first Wednesday of every month from 2:00PM-3:30PM.

**Deep Brain Stimulation Information Sessions (Virtual)** Meets the first Friday of every month from 3:00PM-4:00PM.

**To register for our support groups, and/or our DBS information sessions, please contact Erika Adelman, LCSW, SIFI at 929-695-0282.**

**Music and Movement Concert Series (Virtual)**

Meets the first and third Wednesday of every month from 5:00PM-5:45PM. To register, please contact Hannah Lee at 212-305-9718.

**Speech for PD (Virtual)**  
Meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:15AM-12:30PM. For more information and to register please contact Gemma Moya-Gale, Ph.D., CCC-SLP at [gm2446@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:gm2446@tc.columbia.edu).

**PD 101 (In-Person)**  
Meets June 25th from 5-7PM at the Columbia Community Partnership for Health located at 77 St. Nicholas Avenue.

**PD 201 (In-Person)**  
Meets June 27th from 5-7PM at the Columbia Community Partnership for Health located at 77 St. Nicholas Avenue.

## KNITTING TOGETHER FOR PARKINSON'S SPREADING AWARENESS THIS APRIL



### How Can You Participate?

**Create:** Knit or crochet tulips, scarves, or other items in purple to symbolize Parkinson's Awareness.

**Display:** Place your handmade pieces in your windows, gardens, local businesses, or community spaces like libraries, to spark conversations. Encourage others to join!

**Share:** Post a photo of your display on social media at #KnitForParkinsons to spread the word

Questions? Comments? Need Ideas?  
Email: KnitTogetherForPD@gmail.com

You are also welcome to join us for a free hybrid workshop and knitting circle to honor those living with PD on Wednesday, April 2nd from 2-4pm at the Word Up Community Bookshop, which is located at 2113

Amsterdam Avenue, To register, please go to:

[https://withfriends.co/event/23053432/knitting\\_together\\_for\\_parkinsons\\_disease](https://withfriends.co/event/23053432/knitting_together_for_parkinsons_disease)

## APDA's CONNECTING THROUGH ART PROGRAM



Join us on Friday, April 25th from 10AM-12PM in-person at the Columbia Community Partnership for Health located at 390 Ft. Washington Avenue between 177th and 178th ST. or virtually for a free creative arts program designed specifically for people with PD and their care partners. Program Instructor, multi-media artist Valerie Ewing, will guide participants through a sand art exercise. No previous art experience is required. All art supplies will be provided. To register, please call Gina Bray at 646-899-0556 or email [gbray@apdaparkinson.org](mailto:gbray@apdaparkinson.org). This event will be held every last Friday of the month starting in May.



## PARKINSON'S UNITY WALK

The annual Parkinson's Unity Walk is scheduled to be held on Saturday, April 26, 2025 in Central Park. 100% of donations support Parkinson's disease research funded by four major U.S. Parkinson's foundations. To join our team and/or make a donation, please go to our team page: <https://give.michaeljfox.org/team/640081>, or type Columbia University Irving Medical Center in the team search. If you need help registering, contact Erika at [era2142@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:era2142@cumc.columbia.edu).

**Division of  
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212-305-1303  
[www.columbianeurology.org/patient-care/movement-disorders](http://www.columbianeurology.org/patient-care/movement-disorders)

**Parkinson's Foundation**  
**National Hotline:**  
1-800-473-4636

**Make a Gift--Make a  
Difference**

**Wish to Donate?...**

Should you be interested in discussing how you can help support our clinical, research, and patient care activities, please contact Matthew Reals, Senior Director of Development, at 212-304-7203 or [mr3134@columbia.edu](mailto:mr3134@columbia.edu).



## NEWYORK-PRESBYTERIAN'S 2025 ANNUAL PARKINSON'S DISEASE SYMPOSIUM

Our annual Parkinson's Disease Symposium is scheduled to be held on Monday, April 28th & Tuesday, April 29th from 11AM-2:30pm for individuals, families, allied health professionals, and community partners. This year's event will be a virtual symposium led by staff from NYP-Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, NYP-Weill Cornell Medical Center, and NYP -Columbia University Irving Medical Center who are coming together to share their knowledge on some of the newest updates in Parkinson's Disease. To register, please go to: [https://nyph.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_cNjSJguPTYs6d4Dgu0STew#/registration](https://nyph.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cNjSJguPTYs6d4Dgu0STew#/registration).



## PARKINSON'S FOUNDATION'S MOVING DAY WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY

Parkinson's Foundation's annual Moving Day Westchester County, NY is scheduled to be held on Saturday, May 17th at SUNY Westchester Community College. Moving Day proceeds advance Parkinson's Disease research, increases access to quality care, and provides education and outreach initiatives to people with Parkinson's. Moving Day also raises awareness of Parkinson's both nationally and in the local community. To join our team and/or make a donation, please go to our team page: [https://secure3.convio.net/prkorg/site/TR/MovingDayEvent/General?pg=team&fr\\_id=6266&team\\_id=86540](https://secure3.convio.net/prkorg/site/TR/MovingDayEvent/General?pg=team&fr_id=6266&team_id=86540)

If you have a question regarding Parkinson's and its treatment that you would like featured in the next news-letter, please e-mail your questions and/or inquiries to Erika Adelman, LCSW, SIFI at [era2142@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:era2142@cumc.columbia.edu).

The information published in this newsletter is not intended to replace, and should not be interpreted or relied upon, as professional advice, whether medical or otherwise. Please refer to your own professional for all advice concerning legal, medical, or other matters published in connection with this article.

*"Acceptance doesn't mean resignation; it means understanding that something is what it is and that there's got to be a way through it."* – Michael J. Fox, diagnosed with PD in 1991, at age 29