

Study finds no link between migraine and Parkinson's disease

August 21 2024



Credit: Unsplash/CC0 Public Domain

Contrary to previous research, a new study of female participants finds no link between migraine and the risk of developing Parkinson's disease. The study is published in the August 21, 2024 online issue of *Neurology*.

"These results are reassuring for women who have migraine, which itself causes many burdens, that they don't have to worry about an increased risk of Parkinson's disease in the future," said study author Tobias Kurth, MD, ScD, from the Institute of Public Health at Charité—Universitätsmedizin Berlin in Germany.

The study involved 39,312 [female participants](#) with an average age of 55 at the start of the study. A total of 7,321 of the participants reported current or past migraine at the start of the study. The participants were then followed for an average of 22 years. During that time, 685 people reported physician-diagnosed Parkinson's disease. Of those, 128 were people who reported a history of migraine or active migraine, and 557 were people with no migraine.

After adjusting for other factors that could affect the risk of developing Parkinson's disease as well as migraine, such as age, [physical activity](#), [alcohol use](#) and smoking status, researchers found that people with migraine were no more likely to develop Parkinson's disease than those who did not have migraine.

This result did not change based on how frequently people had a migraine or whether they experienced an aura before the migraine. An aura is a visual or other sensory disturbance that occurs before the migraine starts, such as seeing [bright lights](#).

"Since this study involved only female health professionals who were primarily [white people](#), more research is needed to determine whether the results will apply to other groups, including men, women and other races, ethnicities and gender identities," Kurth said.

Another limitation of the study is that participants self-reported information on migraine and Parkinson's disease, so it is possible that some information was not accurate. In addition, since Parkinson's

disease is often not diagnosed until symptoms are advanced, it's possible that some participants may have developed Parkinson's disease after the end of the study.

More information: *Neurology* (2024).

Provided by American Academy of Neurology

Citation: Study finds no link between migraine and Parkinson's disease (2024, August 21) retrieved 21 August 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2024-08-link-migraine-parkinson-disease.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.