# Parkinson's Disease

## General Information

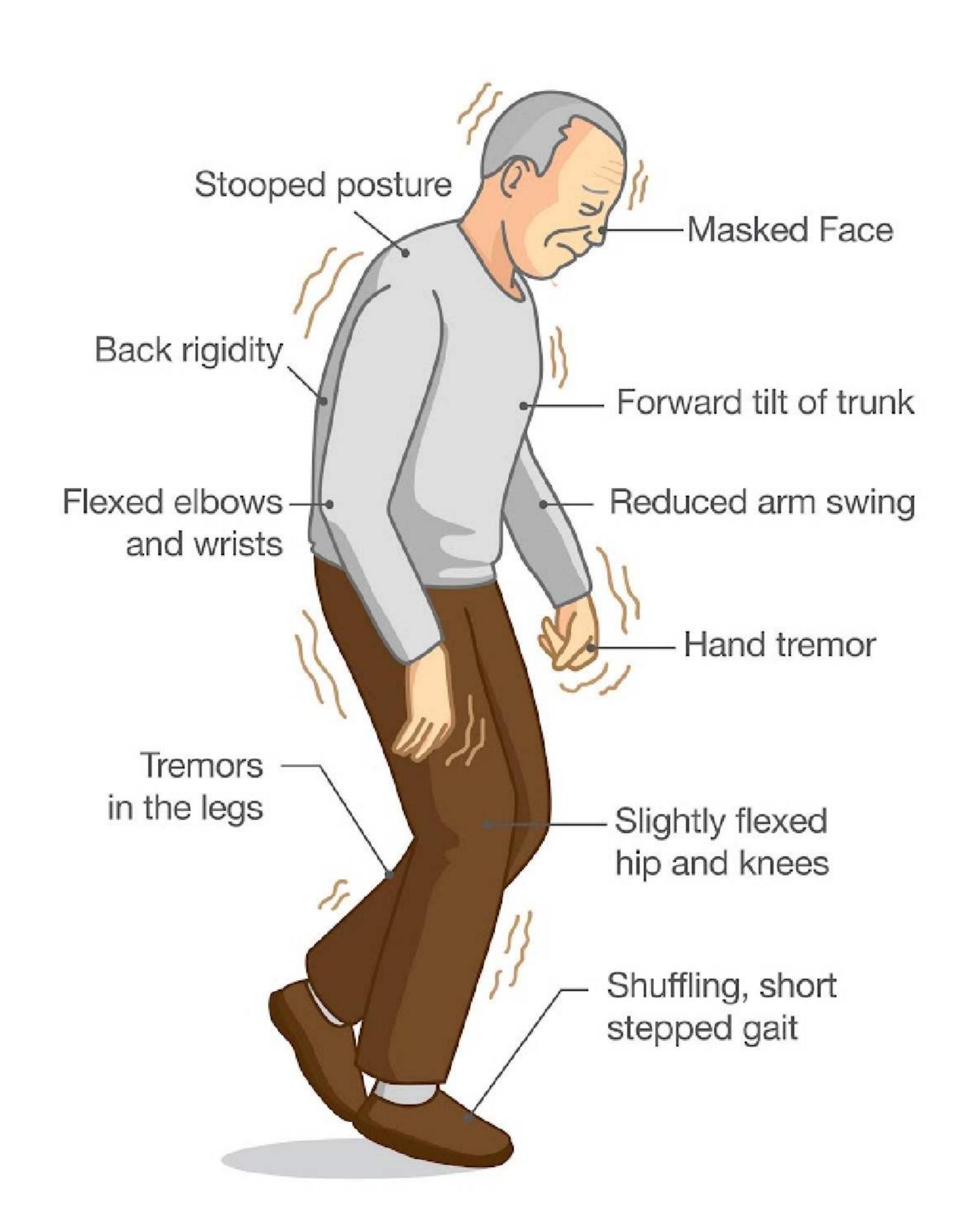
#### What is Parkinson's Disease?

Parkinson's Disease primarily affects the **dopamine-producing neurons** in the brain, particularly in areas called the basal ganglia and substantia nigra. Dopamine is a crucial neurotransmitter that helps regulate movement and coordination.

#### Symptoms and Impact

**Motor Symptoms:** These include tremors, stiffness, and difficulty with balance and coordination. As the disease progresses, these motor symptoms can make everyday activities more challenging.

**Cognitive Symptoms:** You may experience problems with memory, attention, and planning. These cognitive issues can interfere with the ability to perform tasks that require thinking and movement at the same time.



#### What Happens in the Brain?

Basal Ganglia and Substantia Nigra: These parts of the brain help control complex movements and automatic body functions.

Dopamine Production: In Parkinson's Disease, the substantia nigra loses its color and stops producing enough dopamine, which is important for movement.

Medication for Parkinson's Disease

Levodopa: As the disease progresses, patients usually take medications like levodopa to help replace the dopamine that the brain isn't making anymore.

### Why This Matters

Knowledge Helps: Knowing how Parkinson's affects the brain and body will make you feel more confident in your treatments. This understanding also helps your patients trust you and your treatment plans.