

## Associations between social participation and stages of Parkinson's Disease

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**Introduction:** Participation is vital for all humans. Decreasing participation is often seen as an inevitable consequence of growing old, but having a chronic disease or a neurological disorder such as Parkinson's Disease may influence social participation earlier in life than expected. Occupational therapists are trained to support individuals with Parkinson's disease to maintain their usual level social participation for as long possible.

**Objectives:** The aim of this paper is to explore the association between social participation and stages of Parkinson's disease.

**Methods:** This is a cross-sectional study based on the baseline data collected for the project "Home and Health in People Ageing with Parkinson's disease". 255 persons diagnosed with Parkinson's disease between 47 and 93 years were recruited from three hospitals in southern Sweden. An ordinal regression model was used to explore associations between aspects of social participation and different stages of Parkinson's Disease (Hoehn & Yahr Scale).

**Results:** The results showed that visit friends, help others and participation in leisure activities were significantly associated with stages of Parkinson's disease

**Conclusion:** Increased knowledge of social participation among people with Parkinson's disease can enhance the client-centered nature of occupational therapy services and support people with Parkinson's disease to maintain participation as the disease progresses.