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# Rehabilitation Modifications for a Patient with Parkinson's Disease Following a Suspected Case of Gilbert's Syndrome: A Case Study

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## INTRODUCTION

- Studies have shown that high intensity exercise may be beneficial in slowing down the progression of Parkinson's Disease (PD).
- There is limited information on how to regress these exercises in a high functioning patient that has another comorbidity limiting his activity level.
- Based on current research, trunk stability exercises has been shown to increase step-to-step symmetry in patients with PD.
- LSVT BIG interventions and dual-tasking have been shown to increase gait speed, endurance and improvements in UPDRS and TUG scores.
- Improvements in hand grip, pinch strength, and manual dexterity have been correlated with single-hand putty exercises.

## PURPOSE

To determine the effects of core stabilization exercises, balance training, agility ladder step drills, fine motor, and dual task training in the treatment of a high-functioning patient with Parkinson's Disease and suspected Gilbert's Syndrome

## **CASE DESCRIPTION**

### Patient Profile

- ◆ 66 y/o male retired librarian with 7-year history of PD
- Taking Sinemet (2 tablets, 4 times a day)
- Suspected dx of Gilbert's Syndrome

#### **Body Structure/Function Impairments**

- B upper extremity tremors and dyskinesia. L>R
- Gait instability and balance difficulties on uneven surfaces
- Mild Impairments in B appendicular coordination
- Mild rigidity in B UE/LE. L>R
- Mild thoracic kyphosis and rounded shoulders which are more prominent when sitting

#### Activity Limitations

- Performing fine motor upper extremity tasks such as typing and buttoning shirt
- Walking long distances >1 mile without difficulty

#### Participation Restrictions

- Hiking
- Rock Steady Boxing





Rehabilitation Modifications for a Patient with Parkinson's Disease Following a Suspected Case of Gilbert's Syndrome: A Case Report Jason Bandong, SPT, Hy Ia, SPT, Naureen Imam, SPT, Kayla Wilcox, SPT, Travis Dennis PT, DPT

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## **EXAMINATION FINDINGS**

Patient Reported Functional Limitations	Initial Evaluation	
Hiking	Unable to hike > 1 miles without fatigue	
Upper Extremity (UE) Dressing & Grooming	Moderate limitation, requires assistance or greater time	
Outcome Measures	Initial Evaluation	
Timed Up and Go (TUG)	8.76 seconds	
Timed Up and Go Cognitive (TUG-cog)	8.98 seconds	
6MWT	406 m	
Functional Gait Assessment (FGA)	24/30	
Unified Parkinson Disease Rating Scale (UPDRS)	36/147	

## **PLAN OF CARE**

## Frequency and Duration

1x/week for 4 weeks, 1 hour sessions

## Interventions

- Balance Training
  - Single limb balance and tandem stance with multi-directional ball tosses to encourage dynamic balance

#### Core Strengthening

- Staggered stance push-pull core isometric exercise with one dowel and progression with two dowels
- Placing the patient in a staggered stance places the patient in the functional position of terminal stance phase of gait. Activation of the core in this position helps maintain level pelvic obliquity in all planes.
- Seated marching on swiss ball

## Agility Training

 Large amplitude agility ladder drills emphasizing alternating UE movements

### Dual Task and Fine Motor Activities

- Single hand putty exercises for manual dexterity
- Marble Sorting with color cognitive challenge
- Dual task mobility and coordination via buttoning of a donned flannel shirt while ambulating 10 m



## OUTCOMES

- Mild improvements in activity limitations with most notable being being able to button a shirt with decreased time and assistance required
- Mild improvement body structure/function impairments with decreased LOB as evident during tandem walking in the FGA

Patient Reported Functional Limitations	Initial	Post Treatment
Hiking	Unable to perform	Requires greater time/ assistance with fatigue
UE Dressing & Grooming	Moderate limitation, requires assistance or greater time	Less time/assistance required
Outcome Measure	Initial	Post Treatment
Timed Up and Go (TUG)	8.76 seconds	7.99 seconds
Timed Up and Go Cognitive (TUG-cog)	8.98 seconds	9.03 seconds
6MWT	406 m	475 m
Functional Gait Assessment (FGA)	24/30	28/30
Unified Parkinson Disease Rating Scale (UPDRS)	36/147	25/147
Marble Sorting Accuracy	Session 3 (7/29/19)	Session 4 (8/5/19)
R Hand	91%	66.9%
L Hand	89%	100%
	Session 3 (7/29/19)	Session 4 (8/5/19)
Dual Task Mobility &	14.28 seconds	10.93 seconds
Coordination	3 buttons	3 buttons

## CONCLUSION

- This case report suggests that a multimodal physical therapy treatment approach can be effective in the treatment of a patient with Parkinson's Disease and suspected Gilbert's Syndrome.
- Further studies should investigate the appropriate parameters of treatment for the management of PD in conjunction with other comorbidities that may be limiting patient activity level.

## CLINICAL RELEVANCE

- Initial conservative treatment may be suitable for a high-functioning patient with Parkinson's Disease and suspected Gilbert's Syndrome to prevent regression of function and allow the patient to continue to work toward functional goals.
- An evidence-based, individualized physical therapy plan of care may help to slow down the degenerative process of Parkinson's Disease.