

By 2050, the number of Parkinson's patients worldwide will rise to 25 million

Scientists examined the prevalence of Parkinson's disease in 195 countries and discovered that by mid-century, the condition will affect 267 individuals per 100,000 population, with those over 80 years of age remaining the most vulnerable. The disease is more common among men, and the gender gap is expected to widen.

The highest number of cases is anticipated in East Asia (10.9 million) and South Asia (6.8 million). Meanwhile, Western Africa will experience a 292% increase in Parkinson's patients—the sharpest rise among all regions. In contrast, Central and Eastern Europe will see minimal growth (28%) due to a declining population.

Beyond aging, overall population growth will contribute to the rise in cases. Researchers highlight that physical activity might reduce the risk of developing the disease, while quitting smoking could paradoxically increase the number of cases, although these findings require further validation.

The authors acknowledge limitations in their projections, such as the lack of high-quality data in some regions and insufficient study of risk factors beyond demographics. Nevertheless, they believe their research will help adjust healthcare strategies and channel resources into developing new treatments.