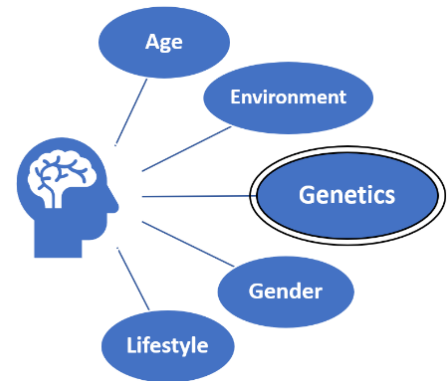
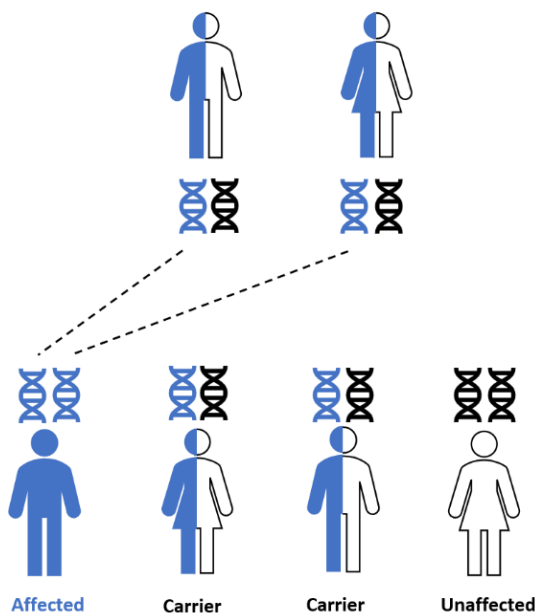


Parkinson's disease is multifactorial in most families; it is likely caused by an interplay of both genetic and environmental factors. A number of genes have been identified as risk factors for Parkinson's disease, with many others likely unknown. This fact sheet outlines basic information about the PARK7 (also known as DJ1) gene as well as risk to individuals and their relatives. If you have a PARK7 (DJ1) variant and/or are concerned about your risk, speaking with a genetic counselor can be helpful.



PARK7 (DJ1) Variants

Gene variants in the PARK7 (also called DJ1) gene are associated with features of classic Parkinson's disease. However, symptoms are usually slower in progression, and may have less non-motor features.



PARK7 (DJ1) variants are inherited in an autosomal recessive pattern (see Figure). This means that a person usually has to inherit two PARK7 (DJ1) gene variants (one from each parent) to have the disease. Having two variants in PARK7 (DJ1) almost always causes Parkinson's disease and usually at a much younger age, such as before age 40 years. Individuals with just one PARK7 (DJ1) gene variant will usually not have Parkinson's disease, however there is evidence to suggest they might be at a slightly increased risk to develop Parkinson's disease in their lifetime.

If a person has two PARK7 (DJ1) gene variants, we can assume that one variant came from each of their parents. Individuals with two PARK7 (DJ1) variants will automatically pass one variant on to each child. Both males and females can pass on and inherit these variants.

Research Opportunities

Research studies may be interested in enrolling people with PARK7 (DJ1) variants. This is true whether or not that person or anyone else in their family has Parkinson's disease. Some studies are trying to understand more about the causes of Parkinson's disease. Other studies are working to develop new treatments.

Various research projects at the Indiana University School of Medicine include genetic testing and genetic counseling for Parkinson's disease. These projects enroll volunteers with and without Parkinson's disease. To learn more, please contact our team at pdnexus@iu.edu or call 888-830-6299.

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For additional information about Parkinson's disease genetics and research visit [PDNexus.org](https://pdnexus.org)

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