



## “More than Meets the Eye” Patient Pack

Dear Patient,

Please find enclosed in this pack some information on Parkinson’s disease. We hope it will help you to understand more about your condition, and help you to live better with it. There is **more than meets the eye** to Parkinson’s and we hope this pack will help to explain this.

The pack consists of three sections: There is a section on the Parkinson’s Association of Ireland (PAI), a general information section and a section on “Wearing-off”. If you have any queries, please note the Parkinson’s Association phone number is 1800 359 359. We would be very happy to try to help with any problems you may encounter, but for enquiries of a medical nature, it is extremely important that you speak to your doctor, pharmacist or other healthcare provider.

Regarding Wearing-off: this occurs when levodopa, the standard drug for the treatment of Parkinson’s, begins to work less efficiently than it used to. It happens in up to 50% of people within two years of starting treatment. Symptoms include changes in movement and mobility, thoughts and feelings, sensations and sense of well-being. You may notice that one dose does not last till the next, or it may sometimes not work at all. Your movement may be compromised and most people will report this to their doctor or pharmacist. However, another significant problem is the development of so-called “**non-motor**” symptoms of wearing-off. These may include anxiety, restlessness, trouble breathing, sleep disturbances, excessive sweating, aches, etc. and frequently these are not associated by you (or even your doctor) with your Parkinson’s. Wearing-off can affect quality of life very negatively. It can usually be improved simply by adjusting your levodopa regimen - either by using newer levodopa drugs, or higher or more frequent levodopa doses - or addition of other agents. However, if it is not reported, your doctor cannot help you! This is explained in greater detail in the pack.

The aim of this campaign is to encourage you to report ANY regular symptoms you may be experiencing to your doctor or pharmacist or other healthcare provider. We would also strongly encourage you to **please join the Parkinson’s Association**. You will find a membership form in this pack. There is strength in numbers and we are committed to improving services for all people with Parkinson’s throughout the country, so please join today!

Yours sincerely

Una Anderson-Ryan,  
Chairperson, Parkinson’s Association of Ireland

**We are extremely grateful to your pharmacist for assisting us with this initiative and to Orion Pharma for an unrestricted educational grant.**