

Diagnosing Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP)

PSP is a terminal degenerative neurological condition.

The difficulty in diagnosing PSP has led to the creation of red flags to act as warning signs that may raise clinical suspicion of PSP.

Think about PSP when seeing patients diagnosed with movement disorders e.g. Parkinson’s disease where there has been a poor response to Levedopa, more rapid progression of symptoms and the development of clinical features not seen in Parkinson’s disease.

What to look for in a patient consultation:

1	Falls	Often backwards and without warning
2	Postural instability	Axial rigidity
3	Slowness of movement	Bradykinesia
4	Motor recklessness	
5	Eye problems	Restricted eye movement. May describe finding it difficult to walk downstairs due to problems with down ward gaze, reduced blink, double vision
6	Speech	Slurring of speech, soft voice
7	Swallowing difficulties	Liquids/and or solids, excessive saliva
8	Cognitive changes	Change in personality, irritability, apathy
9	Emotional lability	
10	No presenting tremor	

If your patient has one or more of these symptoms please refer to Neurology and state PSP in the referral letter.

PSPA Helpline and Information Service

Telephone: 0300 0110 122. Email: helpline@pspassociation.org.uk

www.pspassociation.org.uk

