

Corticobasal Syndrome (CBS)

Know the Signs ... Know the Symptoms

Corticobasal syndrome (CBS) belongs to the category of FTD disorders that primarily affect movement. Some symptoms of both CBS and progressive supranuclear palsy, another FTD disorder associated with a decline in motor function, resemble those often seen in people with Parkinson's disease. (These features are sometimes referred to as "atypical Parkinsonism.")

Movement deficits in CBS often begin on one side of the body, but eventually both sides are affected. In addition to motor symptoms, people with CBS may exhibit changes in behavior and language skills common to the behavioral variant FTD and primary progressive aphasia forms of FTD, particularly as the disease progresses. **The following are possible symptoms of CBS:**

SYMPTOMS	POSSIBLE SIGNS
Limb apraxia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inability to compel a hand, arm or leg to carry out a desired motion, although the muscle strength needed to complete the action is maintained• Difficulty completing familiar purposeful activity, such as opening a door, operating the television remote, or using kitchen tools• Tripping or falling
Akinesia/bradykinesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Absence (akinesia) or abnormally slow (bradykinesia) movement
Rigidity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stiffness, resistance to movement
Dystonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uncontrollable muscle contraction that causes an arm or leg to twist involuntarily or to assume an abnormal posture

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SYMPTOMS	POSSIBLE SIGNS
Cognitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alien limb phenomenon—sensation that an arm or leg is not part of the body, accompanied by inability to control movement of the limb• Acalculia—inability to carry out simple mathematical calculations, such as adding or subtracting• Visuospatial deficits—difficulty orienting in space

A person affected by CBS may present with cognitive, motor or language symptoms as the first sign. Development of a second and/or third category of symptoms makes it easier for the physician to recognize the illness as CBS.

If you have concern that you or a loved one may have been misdiagnosed—or about any of the signs and symptoms listed above—it is important to consult a doctor.

If you're facing this diagnosis—or if you have questions—contact AFTD for help and support.

