

# Letter to the Editor

## Parkinson revealed by a shadow at sunset

Dear Editor,

The human shadow at sunset is a fascinating image: every shadow appears as very tall and subtle, climbs in nearby mountains and buildings, and if projected onto the sea slips on the waters.

Here we are reporting a case where the image of a shadow at sunset allowed an early diagnosis of Parkinson's disease.

Twelve years ago, a healthy 59-year-old gentleman was walking at sunset along the seashore, when he noticed that his extremely long shadow was not moving its arms on the sand, whereas the shadows of his friends were moving their own arms. After this first observation and the medical consultations, the term Parkinson's disease (PD) broke into the life of the gentleman forever. Now, 12 years later, he has tremor at rest, weakness, bradykinesia and rigidity despite an appropriate treatment and a good response to L-Dopa.

### Comments

Along the centuries, the observation of the human shadows interested poets much more than scientists. In this subject, the occasional observation of his long shadow was more significant than the usual observation of his person and allowed an early diagnosis. In the actual age of advanced neurophysiology, brain PET, Dat-Scan, and functional MRI, we find poetic a diagnosis of PD simply suggested by a shadow at sunset.

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### Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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