



## Digestive Motility Diseases

(A.k.a.: gastrointestinal Motility Disorders)

This group of digestive neuromuscular diseases can affect any region of the digestive tract. They are characterized by weakened or absent / flaccid muscular tone within the gut.

Each affected region of the digestive tract has its own diagnostic name; however individuals may suffer with a blending of faltering motility from the esophagus downwards.

The names:

- Gastroparesis,
- Chronic Intestinal Pseudo-obstruction,
- Colonic Inertia, or
- Achalasia,

may sound strange to the uninitiated; but the symptoms these digestive diseases create have been experienced by everyone at sometime in their lives.

### Signs and Symptoms:

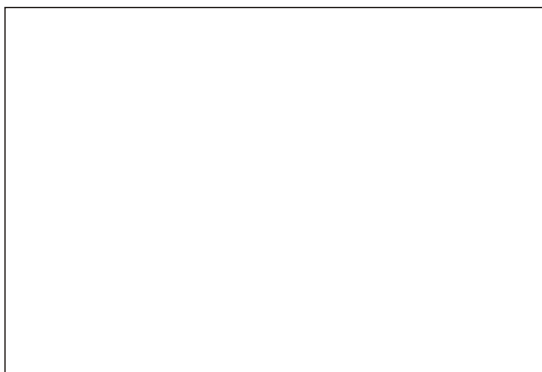
Nausea,  
 Vomiting,  
 Difficulty swallowing,  
 Abdominal bloating,  
 Acid reflux / heartburn,  
 Abdominal discomfort or pain--especcially  
 after eating,  
 Weight loss,  
 Constipation.

These symptoms can occur intermittently or persistently and only a few may predominate. These symptoms can vary from mild through severe.

GPDA:

### Membership

### Donation information



We are a North American based Non-profit association

Charitable number: 859541310RR0001

**Together we can make a difference. Please support GPDA.**

Yes! I want to support GPDA in the quest for a cure.

Here is my tax-deductible donation:

\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to donate on-line using a major credit card: [www.gpda.net](http://www.gpda.net)

I wish to take out a membership for \_\_\_ \$25

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I understand that all my information will be kept confidential and not made available to any other groups.

## How do I know if I have a digestive motility disease or disorder?

There isn't a good answer. Functional digestive disorders like: Functional dyspepsia, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Functional Abdominal Pain, and Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease can represent a milder subset to the more severe Digestive Motility Diseases. Having one of these milder functional digestive disorders does not mean that you will progress on to a more severe form of Digestive Motility Disease.

However, those with severe and persistent symptoms represent a chronic, life threatening illness. This is a Digestive Motility Disease yet to be understood by medical science. More research is desperately needed.

In today's economy, research dollars are limited and precious; therefore, money needs to be spent on the severe end of the symptom spectrum. This will provide answers for everyone and broaden treatment approaches for all.

### About GPDA

The Gastroparesis and Dysmotilities Association is a Canadian, federally registered non-profit charitable organization dedicated to supporting research, increasing awareness, advocacy and providing educational materials to patients and families struggling with Digestive Motility Diseases and Disorders.

Our non-profit association is North American based and collaborates with physician/scientists, other non-profit organizations and out-reach volunteers.

GPDA provides: media releases; prepares important documents to educate policy makers to the crisis faced by patients; and has an extensive educational web-site. The web site and educational materials have been reviewed by Motility specialists.

GPDA organized the first International Task Force on Gastroparesis (Orlando, 2003)

The President of GPDA has been an Invited presenter to the National Institutes of Health on research initiatives for Gastroparesis.

### Facts:

- 2% of North Americans suffer from chronic, severe nausea and vomiting.
- 18% of North Americans suffer from chronic, severe, "motility-like" upper digestive symptoms (nausea, bloating, fullness).
- Gastroparesis is the most common of the Digestive Motility Diseases and it severely affects 4 million North Americans; men, women and children.
- The largest group to develop Gastroparesis, develop it for unknown reasons.
- 70 to 80% of those who develop Gastroparesis are women with an average age of on-set around 30.
- Adolescent girls are often mis-diagnosed with an eating disorder.
- Parenteral nutrition (a special type of intravenous feeding) needed to sustain life in the most severely affected, costs from \$150,000 to \$300,000 a year per patient.
- 15% of people with Gastroparesis remain dependent upon feeding tubes despite treatments.
- You can count the number of medical treatments on one hand, none of which have been developed specifically for Digestive Motility Diseases.

Digestive Motility Diseases and Disorders represent a spectrum of severity. All would agree that the symptoms of nausea, vomiting abdominal pain / discomfort and constipation are terrible symptoms.

Research is desperately needed to find better treatment options and improve the quality of life for those who are suffering. Better informed doctors, standardization of care, and better access to current treatments are also required.

### Donations

Your donations or membership help support the efforts of GPDA

Our work is dependent upon donations.