



Speaking from Experience *Parkinson's Disease: Late onset*

Transcript for chapter 1 of 8: Diagnosis

Edwin: I did have problems playing golf; I couldn't hit the ball properly. I couldn't do it definitely getting out of the chair, and I thought well there must be something wrong so I went to see him again and he conducted further tests, and he said 'I'm very sorry to tell you, but I think you have Parkinson's'.

Bill: In my job I have to do a lot of presentations and I noticed my voice delivery wasn't good and I couldn't control it.

Celia: My reaction when I was first diagnosed was very mild because I didn't know what Parkinson's was and I didn't know what to expect in later years.

Bill: I realised there was something wrong then, but I didn't do anything about it until I retired.

Anthony: My reaction was that I felt sorry that I wouldn't have a normal life, that my activities would be cut out, because I had already witnessed my father having Parkinson's, but he got it later in life than I did and he didn't have the benefits of medication and I thought, well I'll probably be better off than he.

Bill's Wife: When Bill was first diagnosed I was quite shocked but I also was quite relieved that it wasn't cancer. I thought, well maybe he has a cancer and he doesn't have long to live.

Bernadette: I was fairly relieved that it was Parkinson's as a few other things had gone through my mind and I did know that now they had medication for it.

Bill's Wife: Because of my nursing background I read up on it and got as much information as I could from the doctor and the various books that we both read. I found that very helpful so we had a better idea of how the disease progresses.

Edwin: I didn't know anything about it - that was the first thing I had to find out, what's going on? What's involved? The neurologist was very helpful, I saw a physiotherapist and they were very helpful, I saw a speech therapist that was very helpful. Each one of them gave me a background picture on what Parkinson's was.

Muriel: I had no knowledge whatsoever; in my lifetime I had never come across anybody with Parkinson's disease. After a lot of soul searching I decided that I wasn't going to tell anybody that I had Parkinson's disease, just that I had Parkinson's, and I found that friends appeared from the woodwork.

Bill: I mean it's very important to understand what the disease is so you know what questions to ask.

Margaret: My concerns were that it was going to affect him more than what it did. I thought he had always been very active and that he might throw the towel in completely, but he didn't. He's managed it very well up until now.