

VOICE THERAPY FOR PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Nearly one million people in the U.S. are living with Parkinson's Disease (PD) and approximately 60,000 Americans are diagnosed with PD each year. While tremors, slowing, and stiffening movements are the most obvious symptoms of the disease, Parkinson's affects many systems in the body. **Individuals with PD often experience communication difficulties due to changes in voice, speech, and facial expression. The voice may be soft, breathy, hoarse, monotone, and difficult to hear.** Speech may be slurred or mumbled. A person with PD may have a "frozen" or masked facial expression that can make it harder to convey emotion.

Speech and voice therapy can help prevent and slow this decline in communication skills.

The Purdue Center for Voice is a registered provider of SPEAK OUT! and LOUD Crowd therapy programs developed by the Parkinson Voice Project.



SPEAK OUT! is a therapy regimen designed to preserve the speech and communication of individuals with Parkinson's and related neurological disorders. The program is founded on the principle of transforming speech from an automatic function to an intentional task. SPEAK OUT! is usually completed in 12 sessions across four weeks. Participants and their families have reported improvement in communication and overall quality of life.



LOUD Crowd is the weekly group therapy portion of the program that is available to participants following completion of SPEAK OUT! The group sessions provide the opportunity to maintain skills gained during SPEAK OUT! and are a source of camaraderie and support for the members.

Contact the clinic office at 765-494-3789 for information on scheduling an appointment. The lead SLP, Lydia Kruse, can be contacted for more information via e-mail at lkruse@purdue.edu.