**Akinesia** - slowness of voluntary movement. The inability to initiate such action.
**Antagonist** - a substance that blocks the action of another substance.
**Basal Ganglia** - part of the brain which controls movement.
**Cell Implants** - in the context of Parkinson's, implanting dopamine cells into the brain of a person with Parkinson's.
**Controlled Release Tablets** - a version of the levadopa drug co-careldopa (sinemet) and co-beneldopa (madopar) which releases the drugs over an extended period.
**Deep Brain Stimulation** - a type of neuro surgery.
**Dopamine** - a neuro transmitter produced by cells in the basal ganglia. Its function is to control the messages sent from the brain, particularly those involved in movement.
**Dopamine Agonists** - a group of drugs that work by stimulating dopamine production.
**Dopamine Receptor** - the area of a nerve cell that is stimulated by dopamine or a dopamine agonist.
**Dyskinesia** - involuntary or abnormal movements which can affect any part of the body.
**Embryonic Stem Cells** - these are cells found in the very earliest stages of embryo formation.
**Folic Acid** - a substance contained in a variety of foods which is essential for the production of red blood cells in bone marrow.
**Genes** - are the biological units of inheritance.
**Gene Therapy** - a relatively new approach for treating certain conditions. It involves introducing normal genes into people with certain diseases to overcome the effects of defective genes.
**Genetically Engineered Cells** - cells which have been modified.
**Implanted Pulse Generator** - a small unit used in Deep Brain Stimulation which contains a battery and electronics to generate the signals which are carried to the brain.
**In-vitro Test** - a test which is done in isolation from a living organism.
**In-vivo Test** - a test which takes place within a living organism.
**Levodopa** - a natural amino acid that the brain converts to dopamine.
**Neurons** - another name for nerve cells.
**Neuroprotective Agents** - drugs or other methods of protecting neurological systems.
**'Off' Time** - the time period when you do not receive relief from your Parkinson's disease despite having taken medication.
**'On' - Time** - the time period when you are receiving relief from your symptoms.
**'On' Time with Dyskinesia** - the time period when you are receiving relief from your symptoms but have uncontrolled movements caused by medications.
**Positron Emission Tomography (PET**) - a computer scan that can visualise the damage to the brain in Parkinson's disease.
**Stem Cells** - unspecialised cells which have the ability to develop into different types of cells within the body. There are many different types of stems cells and researchers are pursuing the hypothesis that they may be a source of dopamine cells which can be used to replace the lost in Parkinson's disease.
**Wearing Off** - some people find that after they have been on levodopa treatment for a while, the effects of their regular dose do not seem to last until the next dose. This is known as 'end of dose deterioration' or more simply 'wearing off'.