



PARKINSON'S DISEASE NEWS

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THE PREVALENCE OF NON-MOTOR SYMPTOMS IN PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Clinical Neurology and Neurosurgery [2012] Aug 16 [Epub ahead of print] (E.M.Khedr, N.A.El Fetoh, H.Khalifa, M.A.Ahmed, K.M.El Beh)

The primary symptom of Parkinson's Disease is excessive muscle contraction. That leads to the characteristic symptoms such as rigidity, tremor, and bradykinesia (slowness of movement). However, muscles are involved in physiological functions throughout the body. The dopamine deficiency that causes Parkinson's Disease also directly affects the emotions. Consequently, non-motor symptoms of Parkinson's Disease are very common.

The non-motor symptoms that were found to most prevalent in Parkinson's Disease were : disturbance of mood and cognition (87%), sleep disturbance and fatigue (78%), gastrointestinal (76%), urinary (76%), sexual dysfunction (73%), cardiovascular (70%). Perceptual problems and hallucinations are infrequent (10%) and are usually due to Parkinson's Disease drugs, especially dopamine agonists, rather than Parkinson's Disease itself. Dementia, which was found to be mostly mild, occurred in around 22% of people with Parkinson's Disease. Although dementia often eventually occurs in Parkinson's Disease, it has an entirely different biochemistry from Parkinson's Disease. It is therefore not actually a Parkinson's Disease symptom or inevitable in Parkinson's Disease.

<http://www.viartis.net/parkinsons.disease/news/120823.pdf>

mail@viartis.net

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