



PARKINSON'S DISEASE NEWS

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

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COMPARISON OF L-DOPA, AGONISTS AND MAO INHIBITORS

Lancet [2014] Jun 10 [Epub ahead of print] (Pd Med Collaborative Group)

Complete abstract : <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24928805>

Whether the initial treatment for Parkinson's disease should consist of L-dopa, dopamine agonists, or MAO B inhibitors is uncertain. So researchers aimed to establish which of these three classes of drug, as initial treatment, provided the most effective long-term control of symptoms and best quality of life for people with early Parkinson's Disease.



People newly diagnosed with Parkinson's disease were randomly assigned between the use of L-dopa, dopamine agonists and MAO B inhibitors. After three years PDQ-39 mobility scores averaged 1.8 points better in people assigned to L-dopa. PDQ-39 mobility scores were 1.4 points better in people assigned to MAO B inhibitors when compared to those taking dopamine agonists. L-dopa was not significantly advantageous for EQ-5D utility scores, dementia, admissions to institutions, and death rates. Treatments were discontinued in 28% of those taking dopamine agonists, 23% of those taking MAOB inhibitors, but only 2% of those taking L-dopa.

Small but persistent benefits are shown for patient-rated mobility scores when treatment is initiated with L-dopa compared with dopamine agonists and MAO B inhibitors. MAO B inhibitors were found to be at least as effective as dopamine agonists. L-dopa is also clearly more tolerable.

<http://www.viartis.net/parkinsons.disease/news/140629.pdf>

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