Non motor fluctuations in Parkinson’s disease – assessment in clinic

Antoniya Todorova¹, Miriam Parry², Nikolay Dimitrov², K Ray Chaudhuri¹,³

¹King’s College Hospital, London, UK; ²University Hospital Lewisham, London, UK; ³King’s College, London, UK

Introduction

• Some non-motor symptoms (NMS) can fluctuate with the motor response fluctuations in Parkinson’s disease (PD)

Objective

• To evaluate frequency, type, and correlation of non-motor symptoms with motor fluctuations in PD

Methods

- 56 patients (33 males; mean age – 70.3±10.9yrs; mean PD duration – 7.0±5.7yrs)
- Patients completed Non Motor Symptoms Questionnaire. When symptoms were marked “yes”, patients were asked whether these were related to “off” or “on” periods or remained the same irrespective of motor fluctuations.
- Patients were classified to those with fluctuating vs those with non-fluctuating NMS.

Results

- In 56% of the patients NMS were fluctuating
- 46% of patients with non-motor fluctuations exhibited more than one type of NMS.
- Most common symptoms: Anxiety (50%), pain (46%), depression (31%), symptoms similar to RLS (15%).
- 22% of the patients with non-motor fluctuations (NMF) were on long acting anti-parkinsonian medications
- Rates of NMF were lower in patients on long-acting dopamine agonists, although the study was not powered to address this specifically

Conclusions

• 56% of PD patients presented with discernible NMF
• Our study identifies the heterogeneity of NMF as presented by others¹,²,³
• Anxiety and pain emerge as the most common fluctuating NMS.

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References

1. Storch et al., 2013; 2. Witjas et al., 2002; 3. Stacy et al., 2005