

Recent Trends in Parkinsonism

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Editorial

Parkinsonism is a clinical condition that is characterized by bradykinesia, stiffness, rest tremor, and postural instability. The syndrome that we now know as Parkinson's disease was first reported in 1817 when James Parkinson first defined the disease describing a series of six cases of the syndrome that now bears his name, he specifically left out intellectual changes. About 1-2 % of adults over 55 years of age suffer from Parkinson's disease. The condition weakens the body's muscles, making it detrimental to mobility and causing mental distress. Although there are numerous additional significant etiologies to consider, the most prevalent cause of this syndrome is idiopathic Parkinson disease. Experts state that Cognitive impairment is also associated with Parkinsonism, which is prevalent in individuals with first episode psychosis.

Viral Parkinsonism

Parkinsonism is also now considered as a condition that can be produced by a number of pathogenic events while some experts disagree on whether these characteristics are sufficient to describe the disorder in the absence of genetic or constitutional factors as Parkinson's disease was regarded the quintessential non-genetic disorder until 5 years ago. It has been found that a lot of viruses are associated to both acute and chronic parkinsonism. These viruses include influenza, Coxsackie, Japanese encephalitis B, western equine encephalitis, herpes and those that result in acquired immunodeficiency syndromes. Viruses can be one triggering factor in the onset of Parkinson's disease based on the available evidence. Although there is little evidence that virus infection directly triggers Parkinson's disease, it is evident that some influenza viruses could penetrate the CNS and cause cell death, but they have also been confirmed to create a cytokine storm in the brain.

Parkinsonism and Genes

Genetic information might assist in developing a hypothesis about the pathogenetic mechanisms that cause Parkinson's disease. Furthermore, nine genetic connections have now been identified and three but perhaps not four genes have been identified. These investigations of unique familial forms of Parkinson's disease have undermined our understanding of the importance of genetics in conventional Parkinson's disease and have complicated the classification of the disorder. Studies showed that several illness-associated genes have been cloned as a result of genetic investigations in families with mendelian inheritance of Parkinson's disease as there are few patients with definite mendelian inheritance in relation to the total of sporadic cases.

Psychiatry and Parkinsonism

Topical studies present a retrospective clinical analysis of Parkinsonism patients treated in a hospital for mental illness where a high prevalence of affective symptoms was discovered with depression occurring in 90% of cases. Typical antipsychotics, also known as neuroleptics, are the most common causes which were thought to be free from extrapyramidal symptoms, can also induce parkinsonism. The incidence of depressed symptoms was comparable across the major aetiological categories and typically occurred after the beginning of symptoms. General clinical impressions are confirmed by psychiatric findings, which demonstrate the relative frequency of mental symptoms in the different forms of Parkinsonism. They frequently responded to therapy without a corresponding change in physical condition. Parkinsonism patients should be monitored for changes in personality, since antidepressant therapy is effective to assist.