



Parkinson's Disease

Special Issue on Preclinical Parkinson's Disease

CALL FOR PAPERS

The diagnosis of Parkinson's disease, PD, is based on clinical signs and symptoms. Most patients are being diagnosed at least one to two years after the first motor or nonmotor symptoms appeared. Some may suffer from nonspecific nonmotor symptoms like depression or constipation while others develop akinesia or tremor. At diagnosis, most patients have some degree of anosmia which is not always recognized by the patient and is only measurable on specific tests.

Modern treatment includes medication as substitution for lack of neurotransmitters or deep brain stimulation which modulates disease fluctuations. The ultimate goal is to find new drugs that could halt the disease progression or exert neuroprotective functions.

At the time when the patient is diagnosed with PD, about 50 % of the nigrostriatal dopaminergic neurons are gone measured by different isotope techniques. Any neuroprotective treatment should start long before the death of the nigrostriatal neurons has reached the level of disease onset. Therefore, the clinical features of preclinical PD must be defined and recognized.

The duration of the prodromal phase of PD during which physiological changes as well as nonmotor clinical features are present is not known. The main premotor clinical aspects may include constipation, depression, REM-sleep behavior disorder, anosmia, and increased daytime sleepiness. Early recognition of individuals at high risk for developing PD will be selected from blood and CSF biomarkers in combination with clinical signs and imaging procedures. This special issue will focus on these aspects to develop an algorithm which may be useful in that process.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ Early clinical features in PD:
 - ▶ Constipation
 - ▶ Depression
 - ▶ Olfactory disturbances
 - ▶ REM-sleep behavior disorders
- ▶ Blood and saliva biomarkers
- ▶ CSF biomarkers
- ▶ SPECT as an early predictor for PD
- ▶ Different PET scan isotopes for PD
- ▶ Inflammatory changes in prodromal PD
- ▶ Early MRI changes in PD
- ▶ Mitochondrial deficits in early PD
- ▶ Genetic markers in PD
- ▶ Metabolomic markers in PD

Authors can submit their manuscripts via the Manuscript Tracking System at <http://mts.hindawi.com/submit/journals/pd/pcpd/>.

Lead Guest Editor

Jan Aasly, St. Olavs Hospital,
Trondheim, Norway
jan.aasly@ntnu.no

Guest Editors

Sun J. Chung, University of Ulsan,
Seoul, Republic of Korea
sjchung@amc.seoul.kr

George D. Mellick, Griffith University,
Nathan, Australia
g.mellick@griffith.edu.au

Aikaterini Markopoulou, NorthShore
University HealthSystem, Evanston,
USA
amarkopoulou@northshore.org

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