

Proposition: the gastrointestinal system is important in the pathogenesis of pd
Pro

B.O. Popescu

Department of Neurology, Colentina Clinical Hospital, 'Carol Davila' University of Medicine and Pharmacy Bucharest, Romania

Laboratory of Molecular Medicine, 'Victor Babeş' National Institute of Pathology, Romania

According to Heiko Braak pathological findings and staging, Parkinson's disease (PD) seems to involve a neurodegeneration which starts in the gastrointestinal tract (GIT) and progressively ascend and spread through the brain stem and basal ganglia up to the cortex. There are proofs that alpha-synuclein aggregates can propagate transsynaptically, which support Braak's scenario. Hypotheses of toxic or infectious PD etiology were taken into account in the last decades but no clear proof was obtained for either of them. However different studies suggested that only a part of PD cases respect this pathology expansion and today it is well accepted that PD has different clinical phenotypes. Recent work in different fields stresses out that microbiota is important for triggering pathological changes and/or modulates evolution of diseases and this theory might have an impact in PD as well. Last but not least, constipation is frequently an early sign in PD, fact that suggests that at least in a part of cases involvement of GIT is an early event and might have an importance in PD pathogenesis.