

PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY (PN) IN PARKINSON'S DISEASE PATIENTS

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Background: PN has been described in patients with PD, as a potential complication of levodopa therapy or as a peripheral manifestation of PD.

Aim: To describe the clinical, and electrodiagnostic findings of peripheral neuropathies in PD patients.

Methods: 15 PD patients (7 women and 8 men). The mean age was 71,2 years. Three patients were in stage 2, five patients were in stage 3 and seven patients in stage 4 (H&Y). All patients were taking levodopa and was verified with PN by ENG. PN was diagnosed 1-5 years after the diagnosis of PD.

We excluded the patients with PN of other etiologies.

We retrospectively evaluated the clinical and electrodiagnostic findings of PN.

Results: 9 patients (60%) had minor positive sensory complaints; 3(20%) patients had worsening gait and 3 patients (20%) had atrophy and osteotendinose areflexia in lower extremities: Electrodiagnostic test revealed 6 patients (40%) with axonal sensory-motor PN; 8(55%) patients with axonal sensory PN; 1(5%) patient CIDP.

Conclusions: The diagnosis of PN in PD patients is challenging. It may be suspected in the presence of worsening gait impairment or sensory complaints.