

**ASSESSING COGNITIVE FUNCTION IN PARKINSON'S DISEASE CLINICAL DRUG TRIALS:  
A REVIEW OF OPTIONS BASED ON PUBLISHED TRIALS AND BASELINE DATA FROM THE  
PARKINSON'S PROGRESSION MARKERS INITIATIVE**

**J.E. Harrison**

*Department of Medicine, Imperial College, London; Metis Cognition Ltd., Kilmington, UK & Parkinson's  
Progression Markers Initiative*

[johnpc@btinternet.com](mailto:johnpc@btinternet.com)

There is growing interest amongst drug developers in medicating the cognitive deficits observed in patients with Parkinson's disease (PD) and related disorders. Reviews of cognitive dysfunction in PD have observed that a significant number of cognition tests have been employed. However, often the selected tests have been borrowed from clinical psychology and these measures do not always meet best practice recommendations for use in clinical drug trials (CDTs). In order to address this issue and make practical recommendations we have reviewed cognition test use in recently reported clinical drug trials. Two key considerations in the selection of cognitive tests for use in CDTs are i) capacity to detect deficits and, ii), change in cognitive function over time. A promising source of data with which to address this issue is the cohort selected for investigation as part of the Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative. We have therefore accessed and characterised the available baseline data to determine which tests best meet the criteria for use in CDTs. Our review and analyses suggest that tests of psychomotor function, attention, working memory and executive function represent best candidates for use.