

IS PD-MCI A USEFUL CONCEPT: YES

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Mild Cognitive Impairment in Parkinson's disease (PD-MCI) is designated to describe a state in which patients with PD demonstrate some objectively measurable cognitive impairment which are not extensive and severe enough to qualify for dementia. As such it is a syndrome, an intermediate state between normality and dementia. It has been demonstrated in several studies that PD-MCI exists, even in early phases of PD, it is recognizable and can be diagnosed with currently published criteria. In most patients it is readily recognizable, definable and has a definable course. A certain number of PD-MCI patients convert to dementia in the due course. Hence PD-MCI is a concept which is describable, recognizable, can be diagnosed with certain criteria and can predict a certain course. In addition to these clinical aspects PD-MCI has some practical utility: the patients can understand what is wrong with them (e.g. they do not have concomitant AD), physicians can give a name to the condition, the course of which they can predict and follow, and most importantly a homogenous group of patients who can be identified with certain criteria, can be enrolled in research studies to better understand the epidemiology, risk factors, the course and benefits of future interventions to avoid the conversion from MCI and dementia. Therefore it is recommended that PD-MCI should be an established and rigorously applied diagnostic concept in patients with PD in terms of practical as well as research purposes.