Mood disorders and dementia among parkinsonian patients

E. Pallis, I. Pediadites, E. Kanavakis, H. Prassas

Venizelion General Hospital, Heracleion, Crete, Greece

Psychiatriki 2002, 13:135-144

The present retrograde study examined the factors, which predispose the appearance of mood disorders and dementia in parkinsonian patients. We examined 72 patients (45 males and 27 females) with Parkinson's disease who had a mean age of 72±6.5 years. We looked for the existing relationships between the following factors: patient’s sex, age at the onset of the disease, age at the time of the study, duration of the disease, dose of L-Dopa, degree of motor disability and how these factors influenced mood disorders and dementia. No statistically significant differences were found between patients with/without mood disorders concerning the following factors: age at the onset, duration of the disease, dose of L-Dopa, degree of motor disability, dementia or other diseases that they already had. The following statistically significant differences (p<0.05) were found: (a) patients with an early age onset of the disease (< 60 years) had a longer duration of the disease and also suffered from dementia more often than those with a later age onset (≥ 60 years); (b) demented patients (those elders when the study was carried out) had actually an earlier onset and a longer duration of the disease, and they suffered from a more severe motor disability than the ones who had no dementia. The sex of the patients was not found to be a predisposing factor in all data mentioned.

Key words: Parkinson's disease, major depression, dysthymia, mood disorders, dementia.

H. Prassas, Venizelion General Hospital, Heracleion, Crete, Greece

ΒΙΒΛΙΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ