DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA FOR DEPRESSION IN PARKINSON'S DISEASE: A STUDY OF SYMPTOM PATTERNS USING LATENT CLASS ANALYSIS

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Background: Although depression in Parkinson's disease (PD) has a negative emotional and functional impact on patients and caregivers, specific criteria to diagnose depression in PD have yet to be validated.

Aims: To validate a set of diagnostic criteria for major depression in PD.

Methods: A consecutive series of 163 outpatients meeting the UK Brain Bank criteria for PD were recruited from consecutive referrals to a Movement Disorders Unit of a tertiary care hospital. Latent Cluster Analysis (LCA) was used to determine the latent structure of patients with PD and to categorize individuals on the basis of their respective responses to psychiatric instruments assessing depression and anxiety.

Results: A LCA demonstrated three clusters that were considered to represent 'major depression', 'minor depression', and 'no depression'. All 28 patients in the 'major depression' cluster met unmodified DSM-IV criteria for major depression, as compared to 48 of the 125 patients (31%) in the 'minor depression' cluster, and none of the 106 patients in the 'no depression' cluster. All nine Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition (DSM-IV) criteria for major depression were significantly associated with the major depression cluster. Diagnoses of Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD) and apathy were significantly associated with the major depression cluster.

Conclusions: The DSM-IV criteria for major depression should be used unmodified to diagnose depression in PD. Future studies should determine whether anxiety should be included as an additional diagnostic criterion.