RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ORTHOSTATIC HYPOTENSION AND COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT IN PARKINSON´S DISEASE

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Introduction and aims: Orthostatic hypotension (OH) is one of the most frequent non-motor autonomic feature encountered in Parkinson´s Disease (PD). We tried to determine the relationship between OH and cognitive function in patients with PD.

Methods: We studied the OH in patients with PD, having more than 5 years of clinical evolution of the disease and aged between 60-70 years. The OH is defined as a fall of at least 20mmHg in systolic and/or 10mmHg in diastolic blood pressure during the first 3 minutes of active standing or of a passive tilt. We assessed Clinical Dementia Rating Scale (CDR) and excluded the patients with CDR > 0.5; The Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE) and Functional Activities Questionnaire (FAQ) were monthly verified for 1 year.

Results: In our cohort of 165 patients with PD (stage II-III Hoehn and Yahr) 35% developed OH. Complete physical examination, MRI/ CT scan, blood test were performed. The neuropsychological tests demonstrated that subjects with OH had worse cognitive function than those without OH (FAQ 9-18 vs 0-9, MMSE 20-25 vs 26-30).

Conclusions: Our results showed that the presence of OH in PD is correlated with a deterioration of cognitive status (r=0.512, p< 0.01).