Cluster of individuals with similar patterns of motor and non-motor symptoms in Parkinson’s Disease: Potential therapeutic implications

Martínez-Martín P1, Rodríguez-Blázquez C2, Paz S3, Forjaz MJ4, Frades-Payo B5, Cubo E5, de Pedro-Cuesta J5, Lizán L5 on behalf of the ELEP Group

1 Alzheimer Center Reina Sofia Foundation and CIBERNED, Carlos III Institute of Health. Madrid, Spain; 2 National Center for Epidemiology and CIBERNED, Carlos III Institute of Health. Madrid, Spain; 3 Outcomes’10. Castellón de la Plana, Spain; 4 National School of Public Health and REDISSEC, Carlos III Institute of Health. Madrid, Spain; 5 Neurology Department, 6 Complejo Asistencial Universitario de Burgos, Spain.

INTRODUCTION

Parkinson’s disease (PD) presents a large variability in its progression and symptoms. This clinical heterogeneity allows to define PD subtypes from common characteristics of the patients1. The identification of homogeneous groups of patients with PD can help lead the research on future mechanisms of the disease and give rise to specific strategies for treatment.

OBJECTIVES

To identify homogeneous groups of PD patients according to the development of motor and non-motor symptoms throughout the time.

METHODS

- Observational, longitudinal (4 years) study of PD patients from ELEP study based on clinical assessment of motor and non-motor symptoms and disease severity by means of the scores obtained in validated scales (SCOPA-Motor, HADS, PPRS, SCOPA-Autonomic, SCOPA-Sleep, SCOPA-Psychosocial, SCOPA-Cognition, visual analogue scale (VAS) for measure pain and fatigue and severity of PD measure by C-SI-PD). Evaluation scales were classified into four groups regarding the symptoms evaluated:
  - Motor symptoms: SCOPA-Motor including subscales (motor examination, disability and complications) scores and VAS for fatigue;
  - Psychiatric non-motor symptoms: HADS-Anxiety, HADS-Depression, PPRS, SCOPA- Psychosocial, SCOPA-Sleep (including nighttime sleep and daytime sleepiness evaluation);
  - Non-psychiatric non-motor symptoms: SCOPA-Autonomic, SCOPA-Cognition and VAS for pain and fatigue;
  - Disease severity: C-SI-PD.

- Higher scores of all scales indicate greater symptoms severity with the exception of SCOPA-Cognition, which is interpreted inversely (higher scores indicate better health status).

- In order to obtain classifications into clinical subtypes according to the scores obtained in evaluation scales, a cluster analysis was performed in each group of symptoms together with disease severity as follows:
  1. Motor symptoms and severity;
  2. Psychiatric non-motor symptoms and severity;

- Km3d algorithm® was applied in the R statistical software6 to clustering each group of scales. Km3d is an R package based on the k-means algorithm intended to clustering joint-trajectories (longitudinal data of continuous variables). The algorithm calculates 3 criteria to choose the optimal number of clusters (CalinskiHarabaz, Ray&Turi, Davies&Bouldin). In each partition into subtypes (clusters), the average of scales’ joint-trajectories were obtained.

REFERENCES


RESULTS

Sociodemographic data

- 174 patients were included in the analysis. 50% were men, 65% had primary or basic studies with a mean age of 63 years (DE: 11) and mean disease duration of 8 years (DE: 6) at inclusion.

- The main sociodemographic patients’ characteristics during the 4 years were: married status, living in an urban habitat in their own home, not driving and not being member of a PD patients’ association.

Cluster analysis of motor symptoms and severity

- The implementation of km3d algorithm indicates that the optimal number of subtypes of patients by motor symptoms and disease severity scales was 2, as maximum probability was 1 with the 3 established criteria (Figure 1).

- Considering the clinical characteristics related a motor symptom and severity in each subtype of patients, subtype A patients had milder motor dysfunction and less severity disease than subtype B patients (Table 1).

Cluster analysis of psychiatric non-motor symptoms and severity

- The implementation of km3d algorithm indicate that the optimal number of subtypes of patients by psychiatric non-motor symptoms and disease severity scales was 2, as maximum probability was 1 with the 3 established criteria (Figure 2).

- The characteristics from each subtype showed that subtype B patients had major autonomic and cognitive dysfunction, more fatigue and pain and more severe stages of disease (Table 3).

CONCLUSIONS

The km3d algorithm identified two profiles of patients in the sample of the study characterized by mild differences in disease severity, motor dysfunction and dysautonomy throughout the four studied years. Together with motor dysfunction, non-motor symptoms allowed an approximation for characterizing this PD patients. Further analysis are required to establish the potential therapeutic implications in the sample of patients included in this study.

Figure 1. Representation of the optimal number of clusters with motor symptoms and severity scales using CalinskiHarabaz, Ray&Turi and Davies&Bouldin criteria

Table 1. Average of scales’ joint-trajectories of cluster analysis of motor symptom and severity

Figure 2. Representation of the optimal number of clusters with motor symptoms and severity scales using CalinskiHarabaz, Ray&Turi and Davies&Bouldin criteria

Table 2. Average of scales’ joint-trajectories of cluster analysis of psychiatric non-motor symptoms and severity

Table 3. Average of scales’ joint-trajectories of cluster analysis of non-psychiatric non-motor symptoms and severity