PARKINSON'S DISEASE NEWS

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FREQUENT MISDIAGNOSIS OF PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Researchers aimed to determine the diagnostic accuracy of a clinical diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease using neuropathologic diagnosis as the standard. The accuracy of diagnosis was found to be very poor.

Data were used to determine the predictive value of a clinical Parkinson's Disease diagnosis, using two clinical diagnostic confidence levels : PossPD (never treated or not clearly responsive) and ProbPD (responsive to medications).

Using neuropathologic findings of Parkinson's Disease as the standard, this study established a finding of only 26% accuracy for a clinical diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease in untreated patients, 53% accuracy in early Parkinson's Disease of less than five years duration that was responsive to medication, and 85% diagnostic accuracy in Parkinson's Disease of longer duration that was medication-responsive.

Clinical variables that improved diagnostic accuracy were medication response, motor fluctuations, dyskinesias, and hyposmia (reduced sense of smell).

This study showed that a clinical diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease identifies people who will have pathologically confirmed Parkinson's Disease with a sensitivity of 88% and specificity of 68%. For more information concerning the diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease go to : Diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease http://viartis.net/parkinsons.disease/diagnosis.htm