

STUDY ON THE INCIDENCE OF DEPRESSION AND APATHY IN A GROUP OF PATIENTS DIAGNOSED WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE

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Introduction: Depression and apathy are among the most common psychiatric and behavioral disorders associated with Parkinson's disease (PD). These two psychiatric disorders are major determinants of quality of life for patients with Parkinson's disease.

Objectives: The main objective of this study was to establish the prevalence and demographic and clinical correlates of depression and apathy in a sample of inpatients with Parkinson's disease.

Aims: To identify depression and apathy in a group of patients diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and to allow appropriate treatment to improve their quality of life.

Methods: A number of 44 inpatients with Parkinson's disease were investigated with the Starkstein's Apathy Scale (AS), the 17-item Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HDRS-17), the Hoehn and Yahr staging (HY), the Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale (UPDRS) and the Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE).

Results: Apathy coexisted with depression in 34.1% of PD patients, compared with depression without apathy in 4.6%, and apathy without depression in 22.7%. Apathy was associated with higher UPDRS score, lower MMSE score and earlier HY stages. Depression was correlated with more advanced HY stages and younger age of patients with Parkinson's disease.

Conclusions: Apathy and depression are common in patients with Parkinson's disease. Therefore these two conditions should be screened and considered in the management of patients with Parkinson's disease.