

Duodenal levodopa infusion in advanced Parkinson's disease: a 5-year retrospective study

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Background: Duodenal Levodopa Infusion (DLI) is a diffuse treatment for patients with advanced Parkinson's disease (APD),^[1] that provides continuous levodopa stimulation by means of a percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy with a jejunal extension tube (PEG-J) connected to a portable infusion pump.

Aim and Methods: The aim of the study is to investigate the long-term^[2] motor outcome and safety of DLI in patients with APD. We retrospectively identified all patients treated with DLI from October 2009 to January 2020 at the Center for Movement Disorders of Perugia Hospital.^[3] Patients demographics and clinical features, including MDS-UPDRS III score, PEG-J procedures, causes for any discontinuation, reported complications and mortality were collected.

Results: The study included 30 APD patients (median age 72±5.6 years; mean disease duration 17.2±5.7 years). Mean treatment duration was 35.6±30.6 months. Overall, 156 PEG-J procedures were performed. One patient discontinued treatment after 6 months, due to peripheral neuropathy. Six patients died for causes not related to DLI, during the first 4 years of treatment. The rate of reported complications increased during the first four years of treatment. Specifically, after 2 years, the rates of complication diverged, being device-related complications more frequent (0.8±0.4) than stoma related complications (0.4±0.5). Device-related complications remain the most frequently reported for the whole follow-up period. MDS-UPDRS III score also increased over time, reaching the peak after the first five years of treatment.

Conclusion: A continue follow-up up to 5 years of treatment with DLI can reduce the rate of complications and provide a better control on motor symptoms.

References:

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