Impact of Covid-19 on Parkinson's disease: experience of an Italian centre

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Background: Covid-19 had a negative impact on motor [2-3] and non-motor [1-4-5] aspects of movement disorders.

Objective: To assess the impact of Covid-19 on Parkinson's disease patients, with regard on non-motor symptoms, social aspects and everyday life.

Methods: Self-administered survey, based on Hamilton Depression and Anxiety Rating Scale, UPDRS, Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale. Motor evaluation (UPDRS III) before and after lockdown.

Results: We analysed 33 patients. 50% of them felt more depressed and anxious than before lockdown. Sleep quality decreased for 38% of patients. These features are related between them and with the patients' level of education. For 5 patients hallucinations got worse, while four experienced worsened binge-eating disorder, one had ICDs and DDS for the first time. 43% of patients felt more fatigued, 58% of them felt more slowness of movements. 37% of patients felt their FOG worsened, 44% felt their posture did and 29% got worse motor fluctuations. UPDRS III worsened in 38% of patients. Only 5 patients had difficulty in finding their doctors, none of them in finding their drugs. 6 patients knew what telemedicine is, and 4 of them used it. 29% of patients said their health and quality of life decreased. For 51% of patients the most important problem was the impossibility to practice physiotherapy. Most people emailed our centre to postpone appointments or to seek medical advice, only 1% asked for Covid-19 related issues and telemedicine consultations.

Conclusions: Covid-19 had a negative impact on motor and non-motor symptoms of PD, with quality of life repercussions.

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