Clinical Predictors of disease progression in Parkinson's disease

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STELLINGEN

Clinical predictors of disease progression in Parkinson's disease

1. Nondopaminergic symptoms largely do not improve on dopaminergic medication and might therefore be a better indicator of the severity of Parkinson's disease. (this thesis)
2. The presence of hallucinations is a potential predictor of dementia in Parkinson's disease; the reverse relation also exists: more cognitive impairment associated with future development of hallucinations. (this thesis)
3. The use of antihypertensive medication is associated with the development of excessive daytime sleepiness in Parkinson's disease, possibly due to their effect on adrenergic receptors involved in the sleep-wake regulation. (this thesis)
4. Depression and anxiety often co-occur in Parkinson's disease and share the same profile of non-dopaminergic risk factors which are related to disease progression. (this thesis)
5. The symptom profile of Parkinson's disease may change over time, underscoring the importance and value of longitudinal studies.
   (Mahowald MW et al. *Neurology* 2010;75:1762-1763)
6. Premotor symptoms have the potential to serve as early diagnostic markers of Parkinson's disease and ultimately, an intervention point for neuroprotective or disease-modifying strategies. (Goldman JG et al. *Curr Opin Neurol* 2014;27:434-441)
7. Parkinson's disease may be caused by an enteric neurotropic pathogen entering the brain through the vagal nerve, a process that may take over 20 years.
   (Svensson E et al. *Ann Neurol* 2015;78:522-529)
8. Variability of drug response in the pharmacologic treatment in Parkinson's disease could be a challenge in clinical practice and therefore identifying genetic factors associated with this variability could lead to more personalized treatment approach, increase efficacy and limit costs. (Schumacher-Schuh AF et al. *Pharmacogenomics* 2014;15:1253-1271*)*
9. You don't have to be a mathematician to have a feel for numbers.
   (John Forbes Nash Jr, 1928-2015)
   Statistical methods are tools, they are useless if you do not apply them correctly.
10. Perfection is the willingness to be imperfect. (Lao Tzu, 604-507 BC)
    The idea of doing research is admitting to the fact that making mistakes is part of the process and you get to learn from it.
11. Diagnosis is not the end, but the beginning of practice. (Martin H. Fischer, 1879-1962)
    Knowledge about a certain disease is infinite, there is always more to explore as a clinican.
12. The greatest certainty in prognostic research is that it's uncertain, because it is about the future.