DIVERGENT THINKING IN DRUG NAIVE PARKINSON’s DISEASE PATIENTS: A PRELIMINARY STUDY


* Dipartimento di Scienze Umane e Sociali, Università degli Studi di Bergamo
* Centro per la Malattia di Parkinson e i Disturbi del Movimento, Istituti Clinici di Perfezionamento, Milano.

Objectives:
The introduction of dopaminergic therapy (DTh) has revealed the emergence of de novo artistic ability in Parkinson’s Disease (PD). Until now the relationship between artistic productivity (AP), behavioral disorder (ICD) and creativity is still controversial. The aim of our study was to evaluate the divergent thinking (DT) in drug-naive PD patients at the onset of disease (T0) and after 24 months (T1) from the introduction of dopaminergic therapy.

Patients and Methods:
We enrolled consecutively 28 out patients. Up to now, 10 pts carried out the assessment of follow-up after 24 months, 6 pts have not yet reached the necessary time for T1 evaluation, 4 pts will not be longer treated at our center and for 8 pts PD diagnosis was not confirmed at the follow up. All patients underwent neurological (UPDRS, HY), neuropsychological (MMSE: FAB) and psychiatric behavioral assessment (GDS; HAM-A; mMIDI). The DT was evaluated by means of Abbreviated Torrance Test for Adults (ATTA) which includes various aspects, i.e. fluency, flexibility, originality and elaboration.

Results:
Ten patients (eight females and two males) were included in this preliminary analysis: mean age at T0 was 60.6 SD: ±9.3; mean age at T1 was 62 SD: ±8.9; mean education was 11.3 SD: ±3.4. The mean of age at onset of disease was 59.7 SD: ±9.5. All the subjects showed cognitive functions and mood evaluation in the normal range at T0 and T1 (table 2). One subject was positive for gambling at mMIDI’s Scale at follow up. Table 1 shows ATTA scores at baseline (T0) and follow-up (T1), the comparison between the two assessment was significant for Elaboration’s ATTA subscale (p value > 0.026) and ATTA total score (p value > 0.001).

Conclusions:
Our data suggest that AP and DT may be different characteristics in PD, not necessarily associated with each other, and respond differently to dopaminergic therapy. Then although DT and AP are often used interchangeably, this overlap is not correct.

Bibliography: