Impaired facial emotion communication in Parkinson's Disease: Impacts on social wellbeing and potential strategies to mitigate

Goal and vision

Conduct a robust qualitative approach to better understand the impact of impaired facial emotion communication on psychosocial well-being in Parkinson's Disease (PD) and use this information to create an information support resource for clinicians, patients, and their loved ones.

Background

Interpreting facial emotion is a crucial aspect of non-verbal communication in humans ^[1]. Facial emotion communication is impaired in PD in 2 ways: (1) facial masking, present in 92% of cases ^[2], reduces emotional expressivity, and (2) patients are less accurate when interpreting others' facial emotions ^[3]. Significant social and emotional consequences of this dual impairment include social rejection ^[4], negative social judgements ^[5], and poorer assumptions about mental and/or physical health status [6]





ullet



from the Jönköping Parkinson registry. Parkinson's Disease, 2017.

Knowledge gaps and need

Majority of PD patients will experience impaired facial emotion communication

Currently lacking is a central resource that can inform patients, and support both loved ones and clinicians when navigating non-verbal interactions with patients e.g., demonstrative alternatives to emotional reading, strategies to emphasise emotional cues, strategies to reduce miscommunication

There is no validated empirical tool for assessing impaired facial emotion communication in PD

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3. Argaud, S., Vérin, M., Sauleau, P., & Grandjean, D. (2018). Facial emotion recognition in Parkinson's disease: a review and new hypotheses. *Movement Dis*

4. Prenger, M., Madray, R., Van Hedger, K., Anello, M., & MacDonald, P. A. (2020). Social symptoms of Parkinson's disease. Parkinson's Disease, 2020. 5. Burgener, S. C., & Berger, B. (2008). Measuring perceived stigma in persons with progressive neurological disease: Alzheimer's dementia and Parkinson's

Methods

- \bullet member-checking

- piloting
- \bullet resource

I try to mirror expressions, so I'm more cognitively engaged [...] It's a cue to me, for my own facial expression. But I'm also on the lookout for a change in [others'] expression so that I can pick that up, copy it.





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Qualitative, semi-structured interviews with patients and loved ones. Validated using

Patient-driven empirical scale development

Findings thus far and next steps

Complete interviews, validate through member checking, scale development and

Create and evaluate information support

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^{33(4), 554-567.}

disease. *Dementia*, 7(1), 31-53.