

Neuropsychiatric Issues in Parkinson's Disease

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Abstract Cognitive and neuropsychiatric symptoms are common in Parkinson's Disease and may surpass motor symptoms as the major factors impacting patient quality of life. The symptoms may be broadly separated into those associated with the disease process and those that represent adverse effects of treatment. Symptoms attributed to the disease arise from pathologic changes within multiple brain regions and are not restricted to dysfunction in the dopaminergic system. Mood symptoms such as depression, anxiety, and apathy are common and may precede the development of motor symptoms by years, while other neuropsychiatric symptoms such as cognitive impairment, dementia, and psychosis are more common in later stages of the disease. Neuropsychiatric symptoms attributed to treatment include impulse control disorders, pathologic use of dopaminergic medications, and psychosis. This manuscript will review the current understanding of neuropsychiatric symptoms in Parkinson's Disease.

Keywords Parkinson's disease · Non-motor symptoms · Depression · Cognitive impairment · Psychosis · Impulse control disorders

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Introduction

Parkinson's Disease (PD) is clinically defined by the presence of motor symptoms, including bradykinesia, rigidity, tremor, and postural instability. With time and increasing levodopa therapy, dyskinesias may also be seen. However, numerous non-motor symptoms may also arise from the disease process or may result from pharmacologic or surgical treatment. Cognitive and neuropsychiatric symptoms occur in nearly all PD patients and may surpass motor symptoms in their impact on quality of life. These symptoms arise from alpha-synuclein pathology causing dysfunction in multiple brain regions and neurochemical systems. Mood symptoms such as depression, anxiety, and apathy are common and may precede the development of motor symptoms by years, while other neuropsychiatric symptoms such as cognitive dysfunction, dementia, and psychosis are more common in later stages of the disease. The neuropsychiatric symptoms attributed to treatment of PD include impulsive and compulsive behaviors, pathologic overuse of dopaminergic medications, and psychosis. Counseling about the risks of iatrogenic impulsive and compulsive behaviors, and screening for these symptoms, are particularly important because many patients minimize these behaviors, or may not identify them as adverse effects of treatment. Optimal treatment of PD requires a comprehensive approach to the patient, including careful management of cognitive and neuropsychiatric symptoms.

Mood Symptoms in PD

Mood symptoms such as apathy, depression, and anxiety are common in PD and may precede the onset of motor symptoms by many years [1, 2]. These symptoms do not merely represent a response to the challenges of managing a chronic

disease, but are due to underlying disease pathology [3, 4]. The concept of mood symptoms as a “pre-motor” stage of PD is consistent with the neuroanatomical staging system proposed by Braak and colleagues, who demonstrated early accumulation of alpha-synuclein within brainstem structures, followed by rostral spread into the midbrain, basal ganglia, and, eventually, the cortex [5, 6]. Following this pattern, dysfunction within the dorsal raphe nucleus and locus coeruleus may disrupt serotonergic and noradrenergic systems and may occur before significant loss of dopaminergic cells within the substantia nigra results in overt motor symptoms [7, 8]. Dysfunction in the dopaminergic system also contributes to the development of mood symptoms in PD, and the symptoms may vary both with the chronic dysfunction of the system and with fluctuating serum levels of levodopa or dopamine agonists [9].

Depression in PD

Depression is the most common mood disorder in PD and is more common than in age-matched controls in other chronic diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension, coronary artery disease, or congestive heart failure [3, 4, 10–12]. A systematic review in 2015 estimated that 50–70 % of patients with PD had been affected by symptoms of depression [13•], while others report that 35 % had clinically significant depressive symptoms and 17 % met criteria for major depressive disorder [4]. The estimated prevalence of depression varies widely between studies, and depressive symptoms have been reported in up to 90 % of patients [11].

Notably, some patients experience symptoms of depression that emerge or worsen during “off” periods, when serum (and presumably brain) levels of dopaminergic medication are lower and the parkinsonian motor features are inadequately treated. Special care must therefore be taken to screen for symptoms that vary along with motor symptoms, and to adjust dopaminergic medications accordingly.

Despite the high prevalence of depression in PD, there is little evidence to guide therapy in these patients. While numerous reports of treatment of depression in PD may be found in the literature, many are limited by small sample size, short duration, design issues, or incompatible outcome measurements. In a systematic review and meta-analysis of antidepressant treatments for PD in 2015, Bomasang-Layno et al. found only 13 pharmacologic interventional trials that could be compared in a quantitative analysis [13•]. These included selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs: citalopram [14], sertraline [15, 16], fluoxetine [17], and paroxetine [18, 19•]), serotonin–norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs: venlafaxine [19•]), and tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs: desipramine [14], amitriptyline [16], nortriptyline [18], and doxepin [20]), as well as the atypical agents trazodone [21] and nefazodone [17], among medication classes typically used

for treating depression. The authors also included several agents not typically used to treat these symptoms: pramipexole [22, 23], pergolide [22, 23], atomoxetine [24], and memantine [25]. Among studies included in the review, only SSRIs showed an aggregate statistically significant improvement, although the TCA group effect may have been limited by the inclusion of a study of low-dose doxepin for insomnia, with depression measured only as a secondary outcome. In contrast, studies that directly compared SSRIs with TCAs report similar efficacy for both groups, with TCAs demonstrating a more rapid onset of symptomatic improvement in some studies [14, 16–18]. Similarly, in a direct comparison of venlafaxine with paroxetine, Richard et al. found both medications to have similar effects [19•].

In addition to these agents, bupropion, a norepinephrine and dopamine reuptake inhibitor (NDRI), appears uniquely suited to treat depression in the PD population [26] and has been shown to improve both depression [27, 28] and motor symptoms in some patients [27]. However, only a very small trial and case reports are currently available to support its use, and case reports of drug-induced parkinsonism or dystonia have been associated with this agent [29, 30]; further studies are needed.

Pramipexole, a dopamine agonist, has been shown to improve symptoms of depression in comparison with sertraline [31] and with placebo [32]. The benefits of pramipexole appear to be separate from the motor improvement seen in treated patients [32]. Pergolide is of unclear benefit [22] but should not be used due to the risk of cardiac valvular fibrosis [33]. Transdermal rotigotine produced improvement in symptoms of low mood and anhedonia when compared to placebo in a post hoc analysis, but no prospective trials have been performed [34]. A 2011 review of 19 studies of dopamine agonists for depression in PD by Leentjens [35] found that as a class, dopamine agonists yielded promising but unclear results. However, given the potential for adverse effects including fatigue, impulse control disorders, hallucinations, and edema, he and others have recommended that dopamine agonists not be used as first-line therapy for depression in PD [13•, 35, 36].

Atomoxetine, an SNRI that is indicated for use in ADHD, did not improve symptoms of depression in PD but did improve daytime sleepiness and an assessment of global cognition [24]. While a small open-label study of adjunct atomoxetine for patients with refractory depression did show some improvement, this drug should be prescribed in a limited setting [37]. Methylphenidate does not improve depression in PD [38, 39], and memantine also does not appear to be beneficial for depression in PD [25].

Overall, current studies do not identify an optimal approach to treatment of depression in PD, although multiple medications do appear to be beneficial (Table 1). Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors as a class appear to be generally effective

Table 1 Selected RCTs evaluating pharmacologic treatment of depression in PD

Category (significance)	Intervention (n)	Control (n)	Duration (weeks)	Relevant measure(s)	Significant outcomes	Study
Antidepressants:						
SSRI (*), SNRI (*)	Paroxetine (42) Venlafaxine XR (34)	Placebo (39)	12	HAM-D	Improvement with paroxetine versus placebo and with venlafaxine XR versus placebo. No significant differences between paroxetine and venlafaxine XR	Richard 2012
TCA (*), SSRI (NS)	Nortriptyline (17) Paroxetine CR (18)	Placebo (17)	8	HAM-D	Improvement with nortriptyline versus placebo and versus paroxetine CR. No significant improvement with paroxetine CR versus placebo	Menza 2009
Atypical TCA (*)	Trazodone (8)	No treatment (12)	20	HAM-D	Improvement with trazodone versus no treatment	Wemeck 2009
SSRI (*), TCA (*)	Citalopram (16) Desipramine (17)	Placebo (6)	10	MADRS	Improvement with both medications versus placebo by 30 days. Improvement at 14 days with desipramine only	Devos 2008
TCA (NS), SSRI (*)	Amitriptyline (15)	Sertraline (16)	12	HAM-D, PDQ-39	Improvement with sertraline on both measures. Improvement on HAM-D but not PDQ-39 with amitriptyline	Antonini 2005
Atypical TCA (*), SSRI (*) TCA (NS)	Nefazodone (9) Doxepin (6)	Fluoxetine (7) Placebo (6)	12 6	BDI BDI	Improvement in both groups versus baseline No significant improvement (secondary measure)	Avila 2003 Rio Romenets 2013
SSRI (NS) SSRI (NS)	Sertraline (6) Citalopram (19)	Placebo (6) Placebo (19)	10 6	MADRS HAM-D	No significant improvement No significant improvement	Leentjens 2003 Wermuth 1998
Dopamine Agonists:						
DA (*)	Pramipexole (139)	Placebo (148)	12	BDI	Improvement with pramipexole versus placebo	Barone 2010
DA (*), DA (NS)	Pramipexole (22)	Pergolide (19)	32	MADRS, Zung	Improvement with pramipexole on both measures. Improvement on Zung but not MADRS with pergolide.	Rektorova 2003
DA (NS)	Pergolide (10) Pramipexole (10)	Placebo (10)	12	BDI, HADS	No significant improvement or differences between groups (secondary measure)	Navan 2003
Others:						
NMDAr (NS) SNRI (NS)	Memantine (20) Atomoxetine (28)	Placebo (20) Placebo (27)	8 8	HAM-D IDS-C	No significant improvement No significant improvement	Ondo 2011 Weintraub 2010

BDI Beck Depression Inventory, *DA* dopamine agonist, *HAM-D* Hamilton Depression Rating Scale, *HADS* hospital anxiety and depression scale, *IDS-C* Inventory of Depressive Symptomatology–Clinician, *MADRS* Montgomery and Asberg Depression Rating Scale, *NMDAr* NMDA receptor antagonist, *PDQ-39* Parkinson’s Disease Questionnaire-39, *SNRI* selective norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor, *SSRI* selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor, *TCA* tricyclic antidepressant, *Zung* Self-Rating Depression Scale by Zung, *NS* not significant

*Significant

and well tolerated [13••]. The SNRI venlafaxine appears to have a comparable benefit to SSRIs [19•]. The TCAs nortriptyline and desipramine have demonstrated efficacy and may have a more rapid onset of effect than SSRIs but are more likely to result in adverse effects [14, 18]. Pramipexole has demonstrated efficacy for treatment of depression in PD but is generally used as second-line therapy in patients whose motor symptoms are inadequately treated, due to the risks associated with dopamine agonists [31, 32, 35, 36].

Anxiety in PD

Anxiety is the second most common mood disorder in PD, with an estimated 40–50 % of patients experiencing clinically significant symptoms of anxiety, and approximately one third of patients meeting diagnostic criteria for an anxiety disorder [40–42]. Anxiety syndromes in PD include generalized

anxiety, social phobias, specific phobias (including fear of “off” periods or freezing), and panic attacks; the symptoms are frequently co-morbid with depression [40, 41, 43]. Anxiety symptoms may be present throughout the day but are frequently encountered during “off” periods of insufficient motor control, or during the transition from “on” to “off” periods. Similar to depression, it is essential to screen for anxiety symptoms that vary with motor symptoms, and to adjust dopaminergic medications to limit or prevent off periods and motor fluctuations.

Despite the high prevalence of anxiety in PD, there are no randomized, controlled trials (RCTs) to guide treatment. A 2011 update to the Movement Disorders Society (MDS) evidence-based medicine review found insufficient evidence to make any recommendations for the treatment of anxiety in PD [33], and no significant trials have been published since that time. Treatment of anxiety in PD therefore follows the

approach to treatment of anxiety in patients without PD, and is similar to the treatment of depression. Separately, implantation of deep brain stimulation (DBS) electrodes in the subthalamic nucleus (STN) or globus pallidus pars interna (GPi) has been associated with improvement in anxiety, although STN DBS has also been associated with depression and other neuropsychiatric symptoms [44, 45]. At present, there is no clear role for the use of DBS in management of mood symptoms in PD.

Apathy in PD

Apathy is also common in patients with PD, affecting 20–40 % of patients without dementia, and up to 60 % of patients with PD and dementia after 5–10 years [46–48]. Apathy shares many symptoms with depression, including loss of interest in goal-directed behaviors and emotional blunting, but is differentiated by the relative absence of mood symptoms. Apathy is also correlated with worsening cognitive impairment and is a predictor of further cognitive decline and dementia [49, 50]. It is a major cause of caregiver distress [51].

There are limited data to guide the treatment of apathy in PD. Symptoms of co-morbid depression or dementia should be addressed, and the possibility of symptoms occurring secondary to recent reductions in levodopa or dopamine agonist therapy (especially following DBS) should be considered. Non-pharmacological treatments include the establishment of daily schedules to keep patients engaged. Pharmacologic treatment options include cholinesterase inhibitors, psychostimulants, or dopamine agonists in selected patients.

Transdermal rivastigmine (9.5 mg/day) was shown to significantly improve apathy after 6 months of treatment in a double-blind, placebo-controlled study of 31 patients with PD and moderate to severe apathy, but without dementia or depression [52]. Caregiver burden and instrumental ADLs were also improved, although overall quality of life was unchanged.

Methylphenidate has been found to be beneficial in a case report [53], and in a small group of seven patients treated with high doses of methylphenidate (1 mg/kg) for 90 days after STN DBS [54]. However, these patients were part of a larger study that was primarily assessing the effects of methylphenidate on gait. Atomoxetine was not found to improve apathy in PD patients with depression and apathy, although this was also a secondary outcome measurement [24].

Dopamine agonists may have efficacy treating apathy in PD, but the data are limited and may apply only to those patients who have undergone reduction of their dopaminergic medications and are undertreated. A double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial (DBRCT) of 37 patients with PD and apathy after STN DBS surgery and medication reduction found that treatment with peribedil, a D2/D3 dopamine receptor agonist, improved scores on an apathy rating scale by 35 % in the peribedil group, versus 3 % in the placebo group

after 12 weeks of treatment [55]. Similarly, an open-label study of eight patients who had stopped *all* dopaminergic therapy after STN DBS found that treatment with ropinirole was associated with improvement in apathy rating scores [56]. A post hoc analysis of transdermal rotigotine for control of motor symptoms found improvement in apathy symptoms after 4 weeks of treatment, when compared to placebo [34].

Cognitive Dysfunction and Dementia in PD

Cognitive impairment is common in PD, with up to 50 % of patients showing deficiencies in one or more cognitive areas within 5 years of diagnosis [57]. Affected domains include psychomotor speed, memory, executive function, visuospatial skills, and attention, while language appears to be less affected. For patients meeting criteria for mild cognitive impairment (MCI), more patients have symptoms in one domain than in multiple, and non-amnesic symptoms are more common than amnesic impairments [58, 59]. Most patients who develop PD-MCI will progress to dementia within 5 years [60], and over 80 % of patients surviving 20 years after diagnosis of PD will have dementia [61].

Treatment of Cognitive Dysfunction and Dementia in PD

Cognitive dysfunction in PD typically appears later in the disease and may reflect alpha-synuclein aggregation in the basal forebrain, medial temporal lobes, and cortex [5, 6, 62]. Cholinergic dysfunction is particularly implicated in the development of cognitive impairment in PD, and patients with PD dementia (PDD) exhibit greater cortical cholinergic deficits than those with Alzheimer's dementia (AD) [63]. Treatment of cognitive impairment in PD has focused on cholinergic agents, although drugs affecting the glutamate and norepinephrine systems may also be of benefit.

Among cholinesterase inhibitors, only rivastigmine has clear data to support its efficacy in improving cognitive impairment in PDD. Oral rivastigmine was shown to improve the Clinician Global Clinical Impression and scores on the cognitive subscale of the AD Assessment Scale (ADAS-cog) in a DBRCT of 541 patients with PD and mild-to-moderate dementia [64]. Secondary measurements of activities of daily living, attention, and executive function were also improved in the treatment group [64–66]. However, the incidence of nausea, vomiting, and tremor was significantly higher in the treatment group, with GI upset occurring in nearly a third of all treated patients. The use of transdermal rivastigmine significantly reduces the frequency of adverse effects, but a 76-week, open-label study of transdermal versus oral rivastigmine found the transdermal formulation to be somewhat less effective for treating dementia symptoms in patients

with a Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE) score ≤ 21 [67].

The benefit of rivastigmine for patients with MCI is unclear, as a small crossover study of transdermal rivastigmine in 28 patients with PD-MCI did not demonstrate any significant improvement in the primary outcome of Clinical Global Impression of Change (ADCS-CGIC), although Everyday Cognitive Battery scores did improve [68].

Donepezil also appears to improve some aspects of cognition in patients with PDD, although the data are mixed. A DBRCT of donepezil in 550 patients with PDD found improvement in only one of two co-primary endpoints, with patients receiving 10 mg of donepezil (but not 5 mg) demonstrating improvement on the Clinician Interview-Based Impression of Change plus caregiver input (CIBIC+) scale [69]. There was no significant improvement in ADAS-cog scores, but secondary outcomes including MMSE score and assessments of attention and executive function did improve with use of donepezil. The results of three small DBRCTs of donepezil in 7–22 patients with PDD yielded mixed results, with one finding improvement in both primary endpoints of CIBIC+ and MMSE [70], one with improvement in MMSE but not ADAS-cog [71], and one showing improvement in a memory subscale [72]. Several open-label studies suggest that donepezil can improve aspects of cognition in PD [73–75], but there is currently insufficient evidence to draw a firm conclusion about its efficacy in treating PDD.

Galantamine has only been evaluated for PDD in open label studies, and results are conflicting. One open-label, controlled trial of 41 patients with PDD demonstrated improvement in multiple aspects of cognition including ADAS-cog and MMSE [76], but another small open-label, uncontrolled trial of 16 patients with PDD showed only a trend toward improved MMSE [77]. A DBRCT of galantamine in patients with PD *without* dementia did not show improvement on any outcome measurements [78].

Cognitive impairment has also been associated with glutamatergic dysfunction, but studies of the NMDA-receptor antagonist memantine have yielded mixed results for patients with PDD. A DBRCT of 72 patients with PDD or dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB) found that 27 % of patients receiving memantine demonstrated a moderate or substantial improvement in their clinical global impression of change (CGIC) after 24 weeks, compared to zero patients receiving placebo [79]. Subgroup analysis demonstrated significant improvement among patients with PDD, but not DLB. Conversely, a subsequent DBRCT of memantine in 199 patients with PDD or DLB found that improvement in CGIC was evident only in patients with DLB, but not in those with PDD [80]. There is also a report of benefit from memantine in a safety study of patients with PDD, who demonstrated no cognitive improvement during treatment but had a greater global deterioration 6 weeks after discontinuing treatment [81]. Retrospective

analyses of these trials have shown some additional benefits including improvement in reaction time and episodic memory [82], caregiver burden [83], quality of life [84], and survival time [85]. Overall, the data for use of memantine for cognitive dysfunction in PD remain unclear.

Several other medications have been investigated for PD patients with cognitive impairment but not dementia, with some showing limited benefit. A DBRCT of the MAO-B inhibitor rasagiline in 55 patients with PD and impairment in at least two of four cognitive domains (attention, executive function, memory, visuospatial function) showed improvement in attention scores, but not in other domains [86]. A small, open-label, pilot study of atomoxetine for cognitive impairment did find improvement in several measures of executive function [87].

Psychosis in PD

Psychosis affects more than 50 % of patients with PD at some time, and may affect up to 75 % of patients with PDD [88–90]. Psychotic symptoms are frequently caused or worsened by anticholinergic or dopaminergic treatment, particularly with dopamine agonists, but also occur in untreated PD [91, 92]. Symptoms range from mild visual distortions and the sense of “presence,” to fully formed, complex hallucinations. Visual images of people or animals are the most common type of hallucination, although other sensory modalities may also be affected. Auditory hallucinations have been reported in 8 % of patients with PD psychosis (PDP), but predominant auditory symptoms such as those seen in schizophrenia are uncommon [93]. Grandiose, religious, and/or persecutory hallucinations are also rare in PDP. PD psychosis is also distinct from delirium, as the psychotic symptoms occur without significant change in baseline cognition. Delusions are less common in PD and affect a subset of 5–30 % patients [88, 90], but these fixed beliefs are often refractory to treatment. Psychotic symptoms in PD have been related to Lewy body pathology affecting the temporal lobes and causing diffuse cortical cholinergic dysfunction, and to serotonergic dysfunction with increased serotonin-2A (5HT_{2A}) receptor binding potential in multiple areas including visual processing areas and prefrontal cortex [94].

Treatment of Psychosis in PD

Treatment of psychosis in PD (PDP) involves first ruling out medical causes such as delirium or metabolic disturbance, and removing iatrogenic causes. Anticholinergic medications should be discontinued or reduced, followed by MAO inhibitors and dopamine agonists. These medication adjustments may result in worsened control of motor symptoms, which can sometimes be addressed with careful increases in

levodopa; however, levodopa may also cause or worsen psychosis. Many patients with psychosis will therefore require the addition of other medications for control of their psychotic symptoms.

For patients with minor visual distortions or hallucinations, limited data and anecdotal experience suggest that the addition of a cholinesterase inhibitor may be sufficient to control their symptoms. While no DBRCTs have been conducted to specifically evaluate cholinesterase inhibitors for PDP, numerous open-label studies, case reports, and studies of PDD have reported improvement in psychosis after treatment with rivastigmine [95–97], donepezil [97–99], or galantamine [76, 77]. Cholinesterase inhibitors are generally not effective for delusions, or for more florid psychotic symptoms.

Patients with significant or refractory psychosis are frequently treated with antipsychotic agents. Among the antipsychotics, only clozapine has clearly demonstrated efficacy for the control of psychosis, but its use is complicated by the risk of agranulocytosis and the need for frequent blood monitoring. Two DBRCTs with 60 patients each have demonstrated substantial improvement in psychosis in patients with PDP during 4 weeks of blinded treatment with clozapine and 12 weeks of open-label follow-up, with no worsening of motor symptoms [100–102]. Some patients even demonstrated improvement in tremor. There was one case of neutropenia. The absence of declining motor symptoms may result from the unique mechanism of action for this agent, with weaker D2 affinity than other antipsychotics, and relatively greater affinity for D4, 5HT2A, and D1 receptors [103]. While clozapine appears to be significantly more effective at controlling psychosis than any other available medications, it remains rarely used due to the difficulty of frequent blood monitoring.

Quetiapine is frequently found to be helpful in clinical practice, although has limited data to support its efficacy. Several open-label trials [104–106] and one small DBRCT with 16 patients with PDP did find quetiapine to be effective [107], but three larger DBRCTs [108–110], and a fourth that also included patients with DLB and AD [111], did not report benefit. Some of these findings may be due to a relatively large improvement in symptoms within the placebo groups during the trials. Two studies directly comparing quetiapine with clozapine found the two drugs to be similar in their ability to control visual hallucinations; one showed no significant differences between the two drugs [112], while the other demonstrated similar improvements in clinical global impression scores, but found clozapine to be more effective at controlling delusions [113].

Other antipsychotics are generally not used for management of PDP due to worsening of motor symptoms and/or unclear efficacy, although several newer atypical antipsychotics have not been evaluated for this use. Ziprasidone may be effective based on limited evidence [114, 115] but has also been reported to worsen parkinsonian symptoms

[116]. Olanzapine does not appear to be effective at reducing PDP and worsens motor symptoms [117–119]. Risperidone worsens motor symptoms in many patients and has a D2 receptor binding profile similar to the “typical” antipsychotics [120]. Aripiprazole also has unclear efficacy in controlling PDP and has been reported to cause severe worsening of extrapyramidal symptoms [121–123]. No clinical data currently exist to guide the use of newer antipsychotics including asenapine, iloperidone, lurasidone, or paliperidone.

In contrast to other “atypical antipsychotics,” pimavanserin is a selective 5HT2A inverse agonist with no significant activity at dopamine or histamine receptors. It has been found to be effective for controlling psychotic symptoms in PD [124]. A DBRCT of 199 patients with PDP found improvement in the PD-adapted Scale for Assessment of Positive Symptoms after 6 weeks of treatment with pimavanserin, and secondary measures including clinical global impression and assessment of caregiver burden were also improved. Motor function was unchanged, and there were no significant safety concerns [124]. In contrast, an earlier trial of pimavanserin did not find significant improvement in psychosis, largely due to placebo effects that were carefully minimized in the final trial [125]. Such placebo effects may also have limited findings of efficacy for agents such as quetiapine. Nonetheless, if approved for use in PD patients, pimavanserin offers a promising new treatment whose receptor selectivity may avoid many of the adverse effects seen with other treatments for PDP.

Impulsive and Compulsive Behaviors in PD

Impulsive and compulsive behaviors (ICBs) are a serious and often overlooked risk of treatment for PD. Symptoms include impulse control disorders (ICDs), dopamine dysregulation syndrome (DDS), and punding. Treatment options are summarized in Table 2.

Impulse Control Disorders in PD

Impulse control disorders include pathologic gambling, compulsive buying, hyper-sexual behavior, and binge eating [126]. Hobbyism, a compulsive over-interest in other activities such as collecting items or following sports scores, may also occur. These behaviors vary widely in severity but can have devastating financial and social consequences for patients and families. ICDs occur most frequently in patients using DAs, although they are also reported in patients using levodopa [127]. A cross-sectional study of 3090 patients with PD found that 17 % of patients using a DA demonstrated an ICD during 6 months of treatment, versus 7 % of patients not on a DA [127]. Longitudinal studies have found even higher prevalence, with nearly 40 % of patients receiving DA therapy developing an ICD during 4 years of treatment [128, 129].

Table 2 Management options for impulsive and compulsive behaviors in PD

Symptom:	DBRCT evidence:	Anecdotal evidence:	Outcomes:
ICD:	Amantadine Naltrexone		Reduced pathological gambling
			Improvement in QUIP-RS scores, but not CGIC
		Clozapine	Reduced ICB including gambling, punning, hyper sexuality, hobbyism, and punning
		CBT	Reduced severity of ICB, but no reduction of caregiver burden
		DBS	Reduced ICB in many patients. Some de novo ICB (particularly eating) reported
		Intra-jejunal levodopa	Reduced ICB including gambling, hyper sexuality, eating, and shopping. Some de novo ICB also reported
		Topiramate	Reduced ICB including gambling, hyper sexuality, shopping, and eating
		Quetiapine	Reduced pathological gambling
DDS:	None	DBS	Reduced DDS, but de novo ICB also reported
		Intra-jejunal levodopa	Reduced DDS in some patients. Some de novo DDS also reported
		Valproic acid	Reduced DDS
Punding:	None	Amantadine	Reduced punding
		Clozapine	Reduced punding
		DBS	Reduced punding, but de novo ICB also reported
		Intra-jejunal levodopa	Reduced punding in some patients, but de novo punding in others
		Quetiapine	Reduced punding

All medication usage is off label

CBT cognitive behavioral therapy, CGIC clinical global impression of change, DA dopamine agonists, DBS deep brain stimulation, DDS dopamine dysregulation syndrome, ICB impulsive and compulsive behaviors, ICD impulse control disorders

The risk for developing ICD appears to increase with higher doses of dopaminergic medications, although they can occur even at low doses. Other risk factors include younger age, male sex, cigarette smoking, history of substance abuse, and history of impulsive behaviors [126•, 130].

The oral DAs pramipexole and ropinirole appear to impart similar risks for developing ICD, and it is unclear whether the use of extended release oral formulations decreases these risks. In contrast, a cross-sectional study of patients using oral DA versus transdermal rotigotine did find a significant reduction in ICD with rotigotine, with 42 % of patients on oral pramipexole or ropinirole meeting criteria for ICD based on the Questionnaire for Impulsive-Compulsive Disorders in Parkinson's disease Rating Scale (QUIP-RS), versus 19 % of patients on transdermal rotigotine [131]. Adjunctive use of rasagiline was also associated with an increased risk for ICD in this study, as well as in isolated case reports [132]. The role of amantadine is unclear, as although it was also associated with an increased incidence of ICD in the DOMINION study, a small RCT found it to be helpful with controlling pathological gambling [133].

Treatment of Impulse Control Disorders in PD

Reduction of dopaminergic therapy is the mainstay of treatment of ICD, although behavioral management including family counseling and actions such as temporarily restricting access to finances may also be essential. In many patients,

reduction or cessation of a dopamine agonist will result in resolution of the ICD. However, reduction or withdrawal of the DA frequently results in worsening of motor symptoms, and some patients will develop a dopamine agonist withdrawal syndrome (DAWS) that makes further dose reduction difficult or impossible [134, 135]. For patients with worsening motor symptoms but not DAWS, careful increases in the dose of levodopa may be sufficient to address the motor symptoms without resumption of the ICD. For patients experiencing DAWS, attempts to reduce the dose of DA may result in profound fatigue, depression, anxiety, pain, drug craving, or other symptoms that do not improve with levodopa. In these patients, the dose of DA should be minimized as much as possible, without causing undue withdrawal symptoms. Clinical experience suggests that some patients may tolerate a very extended wean, while others may tolerate a transition to transdermal rotigotine.

Aside from reduction of dopaminergic therapy, pharmacological treatment of ICD with naltrexone and amantadine has demonstrated mixed results. A DBRCT assessing the effects of naltrexone in 50 patients with PD and an ICD did not find a significant difference in the primary outcome of clinical global impression of change after 8 weeks of treatment but did demonstrate a significant improvement in the QUIP-RS scores in those patients receiving naltrexone [136]. Chart review [137] and use in patients with ICDs without PD have yielded promising findings with naltrexone. In another RCT, amantadine (200 mg/day) was found to reduce pathological gambling in a

small, double-blind, crossover study of 17 patients with PD [133]. However, the role of amantadine in treating ICD remains unclear, as its use was also associated with an increased number of ICD cases in the DOMINION study.

The antipsychotics clozapine and quetiapine have also been reported to improve ICD in case reports and small patient series [138–140] but have limited data to support their use. Other antipsychotics are not recommended due to their worsening of motor symptoms. Topiramate [141] and antidepressants have been found helpful in case reports or small open-label studies, but the efficacy of these agents is also unclear.

Deep brain stimulation of the STN or GPi has been found to improve ICD in multiple studies [142–144], including in a recent prospective study of 13 patients with PD and ICD who had full resolution of symptoms 3 years after implantation [145]. However, a small number of patients have also experienced worsening or new-onset compulsive behaviors (particularly compulsive eating) after DBS [126•, 146]. The use of intra-jejunal levodopa suggested promising improvement in ICD in a small study of eight patients [147], but further studies are needed.

Dopamine Dysregulation Syndrome and Punding in PD

Dopamine dysregulation syndrome (DDS), also referred to as hedonic homeostatic dysregulation, refers to the compulsive over-use of dopaminergic medications. It is most frequently seen with levodopa but can also occur with short-acting, high-potency DAs such as subcutaneous apomorphine [126•]. Data on the prevalence of DDS are limited, but chart review from specialty centers suggests that it may occur in as many as 3–4 % of treated patients [148]. Risk factors include younger age of PD onset, depressive symptoms, higher doses of dopaminergic medications, novelty seeking personality traits, and greater alcohol use [149]. Patients with DDS exhibit symptoms often seen in other states of drug addiction, including craving, covert use of medications, hoarding of medications, and dysphoria and irritability associated with decreased use. Increased use of dopaminergic medications in DDS may result in symptoms of mania, psychosis, severe dyskinesias, or punding [126•, 149, 150].

Punding refers to repetitive, purposeless behaviors such as arranging, assembling, disassembling, or collecting objects [151]. Punding is on the spectrum of compulsive behaviors with hobbyism but consists of lower-level behaviors with less apparent goal orientation. Other similar behaviors include hoarding and “walk-about,” consisting of aimless wandering [126•, 152]. Punding was initially described in chronic amphetamine users but, in PD, is associated with the use of high

doses of dopaminergic therapy. It is most commonly seen with concomitant use of dopamine agonists and levodopa but can occur with monotherapy.

Treatment of Dopamine Dysregulation Syndrome and Punding in PD

As with other ICBs, reduction of dopaminergic therapy is central to the treatment of DDS, punding, and related behaviors. Limiting access to medications is frequently necessary, and coordination between family members, pharmacies, and other health care providers may be required to prevent covert use [36, 153••]. Conversion to intra-jejunal levodopa has been reported to improve ICD including DDS [147, 150]. However, DDS has also been reported as a complication of jejunal levodopa [154, 155].

Successful treatment of DDS with valproate has been reported in five patients, using 250–1000 mg of extended release valproate at bedtime [156, 157]. Improvement of punding after treatment with amantadine, quetiapine, and clozapine has also been reported in case reports [140, 158, 159]. Cognitive behavioral therapy was found to reduce the severity of ICBs in a study of 45 patients, although caregiver burden was not significantly improved [160].

Deep brain stimulation has enabled marked improvement in DDS and punding in multiple studies, although as mentioned above, a small number of new-onset ICBs have also been reported to occur after DBS [142–144, 146, 150, 161]. Implantation into the STN often allows substantial post-operative reduction in dopaminergic medications, although there have been no direct comparisons of STN vs. GPi DBS for management of DDS. While the current literature may not support the presence of ICD as the primary indication for DBS implantation [162], this approach may be helpful in selected patients.

Conclusion

Neuropsychiatric symptoms affect nearly all patients with PD, and optimal management of the disease requires careful attention to both motor and non-motor symptoms. Patients should be screened for mood disorders, cognitive impairment, psychosis, and compulsive behaviors, and detailed counseling about the risks of medical and surgical treatments should be provided. Screening and counseling for impulsive and compulsive behaviors are particularly important, as many patients minimize these behaviors or may not identify them as adverse effects of their medical treatment. Careful adjustment of medications, addition of pharmacologic treatments when needed, counseling, and appropriate surgical intervention will enable patients with PD to attain optimal control of a challenging and multifaceted illness.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of Interest Jeffrey W. Cooney declares that he has no conflict of interest.

Mark Stacy works for Duke University, and has received consultancy fees from Eli Lilly, Merz, Osmotica, Pfizer, SK Life Sciences, Allergan, Avid, Best Doctors, Biotie, Lundbeck, Neuronova, Novartis Pharma (Japan), Saraepta Therapeutics, and Sunovion Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Dr. Stacy has also received grants from the Michael J. Fox Foundation, the NIH, the Parkinson Study Group, and Pharma 2B, royalties from Informa Press for the Handbook of Dystonia and Duke University for the Wearing Off Questionnaire. He has also received payment for development of educational presentations from the University of Kansas, the University of Miami, and the University of Rochester. Dr. Stacy also received paid travel accommodations from the Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute, the Movement Disorder Society, and the National Parkinson Foundation.

Human and Animal Rights and Informed Consent This article does not contain any studies with human or animal subjects performed by any of the authors.

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