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“Comparing Cognitive Decline Amongst Patients with Parkinson and Multiple Sclerosis”

Objectives: Our intention with this study is to compare cognitive declines between two common neurodegenerative diseases in Southeast Louisiana with the goal of understanding how age coupled with disease factors affects cognition between patient groups.

Introduction: Parkinson’s Disease (PD) is the second most common progressive neurodegenerative disorder affecting American adults. PD is a pathophysiologic loss or degeneration of dopaminergic neurons in the substantia nigra of the mid brain (Beitz et al, 2014). Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic disease of the central nervous system characterized by loss of motor and sensory function, that results from immune mediated inflammation, demyelination, and subsequent axonal damage. MS is one of the most common causes of neurological disability in young adults (Karussis et al, 2014). We hypothesize that our PD group will have greater cognitive decline as a consequence of age.

Methods: Our study enrolls patients with PD and MS in a six-year longitudinal study. In year one we set our baseline results using the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA), Symbol Digit Modalities Test (SDMT), and King Devick’s test (KD). We then conduct annual follow-up visits for five years using the aforementioned assessments.

Results: pending

Conclusion: pending