

**Predicting cognitive impairment in Parkinson's  
disease using neurophysiology and  
biochemical parameters as biomarkers**



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## Abstract

Parkinson's disease (PD) is a common neurodegenerative condition, with multiple associated non-motor symptoms. Of these, dementia is a frequent debilitating complication of the disorder, with significant morbidity and mortality. Some forms of mild cognitive impairment in PD (PD-MCI) may represent a pre-dementia state and certain clinical, laboratory and neurophysiological parameters may increase the accuracy of prediction of cognitive decline. If validated, these markers would offer the opportunity for disease modification and therapeutic intervention at a critical early stage of the illness, when the viable neuronal population is greater. The key aim of this thesis was to characterise cognitive impairment in PD in a cohort of newly diagnosed cases, and evaluate how a panel of biomarkers correlated with cognitive phenotypes to predict risk of future cognitive decline.

The main findings were that PD-MCI was common, and was associated with a distinct clinical phenotype. Memory impairment was the most common single domain affected, although the majority of those with PD-MCI were classified as nonamnestic single domain subtype. A significant correlation was found between pattern recognition memory, sensitive to temporal lobe impairments, and cerebrospinal amyloid- $\beta$  1-42 levels, thought to represent amyloid- $\beta$  metabolism and deposition. Both amyloid- $\beta$  1-42 and 1-40 levels were significantly lower in those with impaired cognition. In addition, short latency afferent inhibition, a neurophysiological *in vivo* non-invasive measurement of cholinergic function, was also reduced in participants with mild cognitive impairment. These findings suggest that cholinergic dysfunction and amyloid deposition may contribute to the underlying pathophysiology of early PD-MCI.

The major conclusion from this thesis is that PD-MCI is heterogeneous and more frequent than previously reported in early disease. This is associated with abnormalities of amyloid processing and cholinergic dysfunction, and may highlight those at risk of developing dementia. Longitudinal assessment of these individuals will enable us to determine and better model those measures predictive of cognitive decline at an early disease stage.

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The Clinical Ageing Research Unit, part of the Institute for Ageing and Health, provided an ideal working environment for undertaking this research. Recruitment of Parkinson's disease participants was largely through the Movement Disorders clinic at the RVI, Newcastle, and I am grateful to the doctors and nurses within the clinic for referring patients to the study. A minority of patients were also referred from surrounding areas, and therefore I am also thankful to the wider PD team in the North East and to DeNDRoN for their assistance in recruitment.

My husband, family and friends and fellow researchers all provided invaluable support during my PhD. I would like to dedicate this thesis to my husband, who over the years has listened tirelessly to various presentations, read my manuscripts and provided good humour plus good cooking to keep me going.

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## **Statement of work undertaken**

The study design was prior to my starting as a PhD student and was conceived by Professor David Burn. The Parkinson's disease patient clinical and neuropsychological assessments plus lumbar punctures were performed by me, Dr Tien Khoo and Dr Gordon Duncan at the Clinical Ageing Research Unit in Newcastle and by Dr Jonathan Evans and Dr David Breen at the Cambridge Centre for Brain Repair. The majority of clinical, neuropsychological and lumbar punctures were from the Newcastle team. Control clinical and neuropsychological assessments were undertaken by me and Dr Gordon Duncan, with the assistance of the nursing team at the Clinical Ageing Research Unit. Analysis of the cerebrospinal fluid was kindly provided by Dr Brit Mollenhauer and her team in Gottingen, Germany, who have international expertise in this area. I undertook the majority of the short latency afferent inhibition assessments, with a few of the initial measurements performed by a medical student who was undertaking an MRes project (Rachel David). The short latency afferent inhibition protocol was established by Dr Mark Baker, in the Institute of Neuroscience at Newcastle University, who also programmed the appropriate software. After Dr Baker trained me to run the protocol, I ran the experiments independently to collect the raw data, although technical assistance was provided if required.

The data cleaning and checking was completed by me, Dr Duncan and Dr Khoo in Newcastle. I analysed all the data independently and performed the statistical analysis, with some advice from Dr Shirley Coleman, Industrial Statistics Research Unit, Newcastle University. Data management was in conjunction with data managers as part of the ICICLE team.

## Abbreviations

a = Amnestic (MCI)

A $\beta$  = Amyloid- $\beta$

A $\beta$ 40 = Amyloid- $\beta$  1-40

A $\beta$ 42 = Amyloid- $\beta$  1-42

ACh = Acetylcholine

AChE = Acetylcholinesterase

AD = Alzheimer's disease

APB = Abductor pollicis brevis

APOE = Apolipoprotein E

APP = A $\beta$  precursor protein

$\alpha$ syn = Total  $\alpha$ -synuclein

CANTAB = Cambridge Neuropsychological Test Automated Battery

CDR = Cognitive Drug Research computerised battery

ChEI = Cholinesterase inhibitor

CN = Cognitively normal

DLB = Dementia with Lewy bodies

EMG = Electromyogram

FDI = First dorsal interosseous muscle

FTD = Frontotemporal dementia

GABA = Gamma-aminobutyric acid

GDS-15 = Geriatric Depression Scale-15

ICICLE-PD = Incidence of Cognitive Impairment in Cohorts with Longitudinal Evaluation-  
Parkinson's disease

ISI = Interstimulus interval

LB = Lewy bodies

LEDD = Levodopa equivalent daily dose

LICI = Long interval cortical inhibition

MCI = Mild cognitive impairment

md = Multiple-domain (MCI)

MDS = Movement Disorder Society

MEP = Motor evoked potential

MMSE = Mini mental state examination

MNMT = Median nerve motor threshold

MoCA = Montreal cognitive assessment

MRI = Magnetic resonance imaging

na = nonamnesic

NART = National Adult Reading Test

NbM = Nucleus basalis of Meynert

NMS = Non-motor symptoms

NPI = Neuropsychiatric Inventory

OTS = One Touch Stockings of Cambridge test

PAL = Paired associates learning

PD = Parkinson's disease

PDD = Parkinson's disease dementia

PDND = Parkinson's disease non-demented

PDQ-39 = Parkinson's disease Quality of Life Questionnaire

PIGD = Postural instability gait difficulty

PoA = Power of attention

P(181)-tau = Tau phosphorylated at threonine 181

PPN = Pedunclopontine nucleus

PRM = Pattern recognition memory

QSBB = Queen Square Brain Bank

RBD = Rapid eye movement behaviour disorder

RMT = Resting motor threshold

SAI = Short latency afferent inhibition

sd = Single-domain (MCI)

SEP = Somatosensory evoked potential

SICI = Short-interval intracortical inhibition

SN(pc) = Substantia nigra (pars compacta)

SRM = Spatial recognition memory

TD = Tremor dominant

TMS = Transcranial magnetic stimulation

ToL = Tower of London test

T-tau = Total tau

UPDRS = Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale

VH = Visual hallucination

## Chapter 1 Parkinson's disease in context

Parkinson's disease (PD) is the second commonest neurodegenerative disorder affecting patients in the UK after Alzheimer's disease (AD). Although historically classified as a motor system disorder, it is increasingly recognised that the majority of the morbidity and mortality associated with PD is related to non-motor aspects. Thus, the focus of research in recent years has turned towards an improved understanding of the non-motor symptoms (NMS), of which cognitive impairment forms a significant burden.

### 1.1 Epidemiology

The annual incidence of PD has been estimated at 8 - 22/100,000 per year in both Europe and the USA (Twelves *et al.*, 2003; Foltynie *et al.*, 2004; von Campenhausen *et al.*, 2005; Taylor *et al.*, 2006; Alves *et al.*, 2008; Winter *et al.*, 2010), ranging from 9 per 100,000 in Eastern Europe to 22 per 100,000 in Aberdeen, with a comparable local annual incidence rate in the Newcastle-Gateshead area of 15.9/100,000 (Duncan *et al.*, 2013b). Reasons for differences between studies include differences in case ascertainment, the population denominator and case definition. The greatest risk factor for development of PD is age, with prevalence figures estimated at 0.3% in those aged over 55, 1% in those over 65, 3.1% over 75 and 4.3% in the oldest age group of over 85 (de Rijk *et al.*, 1995). The risk of PD is also increased in men, who are approximately 1.5 times more likely than women to develop the disease; however, this may only apply to Western populations and in older age groups (Taylor *et al.*, 2007). Possible explanations for the excess in male cases include the protective effect of female hormones, gender-specific exposure to occupational or environmental risk factors or genetic influences (Alves *et al.*, 2008), although the exact mechanisms remain unclear.

PD is a chronic progressive neurodegenerative disorder for which at present there is no known cure. Median age of disease onset is 60 years (Lees *et al.*, 2009), with median time from symptom onset to death of just over 12 years (Hely *et al.*, 2005; Hely *et al.*, 2008). The standardised mortality ratio is comparable to that of the general population in early disease (Marras *et al.*, 2005), but rises to between 1.5 and 3.1 as disease progresses (Hely *et al.*, 1999; Herlofson *et al.*, 2004; Hely *et al.*, 2005;

Hely *et al.*, 2008). The commonest cause of death in patients with PD is pneumonia (Beyer *et al.*, 2001; Hely *et al.*, 2005).

## 1.2 Aetiology of PD

The precise cause of PD remains the subject of intense research, but is likely to be a combination of genetic and environmental factors. Although the vast majority of cases are sporadic in nature, a monogenic aetiology is more likely in those aged under 45 years old, while recent studies have identified at least eight significant loci (Nussbaum RL, 2003; Gasser *et al.*, 2011) (Table 1-1). After advancing age, family history of PD is the biggest risk factor for developing the disease, with early reports suggesting that patients with PD are four times more likely to have a first-degree relative affected than controls (Payami *et al.*, 1994). Mutations in the leucine-rich repeat kinase 2 gene (*LRRK2*) are the most frequent cause of inherited PD, with the commonest mutation producing a glycine to serine amino acid substitution at codon 2019 (G2019S), thought to be present in 1-2% of sporadic PD patients of European descent (Gilks *et al.*, 2005). This figure is much higher in the southern Mediterranean population, in African Arabs and in Ashkenazi Jews. The clinical presentation of *LRRK2* is indistinguishable from that of idiopathic Parkinson's disease, although dementia tends to be less prominent and the disease course is generally milder (Healy *et al.*, 2008). An age-related reduced penetrance is observed, with the risk of PD in those with G2019S mutations being 28% at 59 years, 51% at 69 years and 74% at 79 years (Healy *et al.*, 2008).

Genetic factors may still be important in so-called sporadic disease, but the impact of functional polymorphisms, for example, is less apparent than loss of function or toxic gain of function in monogenic forms, and thus less easy to establish. The pathological hallmark of PD is the presence of Lewy bodies (LB) and Lewy neurites within the substantia nigra pars compacta (SNpc) with consequent degeneration of dopaminergic neurones (Braak *et al.*, 2003). LBs consist of insoluble  $\alpha$ -synuclein, ubiquitin, neurofilament plus other proteins and aggregate in the neuronal cytoplasm or axons (when the protein aggregation is identified as Lewy neurites) in the central and autonomic nervous system (Braak *et al.*, 2004). Growing evidence argues for the role of altered intracellular protein handling in PD, with either an increase in abnormal protein production, impaired protein clearance, or both (Olanow and McNaught, 2011).

Table 1-1 Monogenetic causes of Parkinson's disease

Locus	Gene	Mode of inheritance	Pathology	Comments	References
<b>PARK1</b>	$\alpha$ -Synuclein (SNCA)	Autosomal dominant	Widespread Lewy bodies	Rare; different point mutations correspond to different phenotypes, from early, severe, rapidly progressive plus dementia to mild late-onset PD	(Polymeropoulos <i>et al.</i> , 1997; Spira <i>et al.</i> , 2001)
<b>PARK2</b>	<i>Parkin</i>	Autosomal recessive	Substantia nigra degeneration ; occasional LB	Commonest AR form of PD; early onset, slow progression	(Kitada <i>et al.</i> , 1998; Farrer <i>et al.</i> , 2001)
<b>PARK4</b>	$\alpha$ -Synuclein (SNCA)	Autosomal dominant	Widespread $\alpha$ -syn accumulation	Duplications- late onset typical PD; triplications- early onset, rapid progression, dementia	(Singleton <i>et al.</i> , 2003; Fuchs <i>et al.</i> , 2007; Ikeuchi <i>et al.</i> , 2008)
<b>PARK6</b>	<i>PINK1</i>	Autosomal recessive	Unknown (1 case – LB pathology, nigral neuronal loss & gliosis)	Early onset, slow progression	(Valente <i>et al.</i> , 2001; Valente <i>et al.</i> , 2004a; Valente <i>et al.</i> , 2004b; Samaranch <i>et al.</i> , 2010)
<b>PARK7</b>	<i>DJ-1</i>	Autosomal recessive	Unknown	Rare; early onset, slow progression	(van Duijn <i>et al.</i> , 2001; Bonifati <i>et al.</i> , 2003)
<b>PARK8</b>	<i>LRRK2</i>	Autosomal dominant	Variable; usually Lewy bodies	Commonest AD form of PD; clinical features as for sporadic PD	(Zimprich <i>et al.</i> , 2004; Di Fonzo <i>et al.</i> , 2005)
<b>PARK9</b>	<i>ATP13A2</i> (Kufor-Rakeb disease)	Autosomal recessive	Iron deposition in basal ganglia	Early onset parkinsonism, spasticity, dementia, supranuclear gaze palsy	(Ramirez <i>et al.</i> , 2006; Schneider <i>et al.</i> , 2010)
<b>PARK15</b>	<i>FBX07</i>	Autosomal recessive	Unknown	Rare; early onset, LD-responsive, spasticity	(Di Fonzo <i>et al.</i> , 2009)

Within cells, abnormal protein components are cleared via the autophagic-lysosomal system if insoluble (Ventruti and Cuervo, 2007), and largely through the ubiquitin-proteasome system if soluble protein degradation is required (Pickart, 2001). Defects in the ubiquitin-proteasome system (such as those caused by *Parkin* mutations) or excessive abnormal protein production (for example, due to *SNCA* mutations) precipitate accumulation of abnormal proteins within the neurone, leading to proteolytic stress and ultimately cell death (Olanow and McNaught, 2011). Some researchers hypothesise that in fact LBs may be a form of aggresome – an intracellular inclusion formed in response to proteolytic stress – and hence have a cytoprotective function (Olanow *et al.*, 2004; Tanaka *et al.*, 2004). Recent post-mortem work challenges these views and suggests that neuronal cell dysfunction and cell death may actually precede the formation of LBs and Lewy neurites, when it was shown that substantia nigra (SN) cell dysfunction was greater in those with incidental Lewy bodies than those with PD or controls, with an intermediate number of LBs in the incidental LB group (Milber *et al.*, 2012). Further work is required to delineate the exact mechanisms underlying the function and formation of Lewy pathology and its relation to neurodegeneration in PD.

The concept of epigenetics in neurodegeneration has received attention in recent years, and may go some way to bridging our understanding of the interplay between genetic and environmental factors (Urdinguio *et al.*, 2009; Qureshi and Mehler, 2011). Epigenetics refers to heritable changes in gene expression that are not due to changes in the underlying DNA sequence (Urdinguio *et al.*, 2009). Examples of such epigenetic mechanisms include DNA methylation, histone modifications and non-coding RNA regulation, although few studies have specifically addressed this in PD.

Environmental factors that may contribute to the pathophysiology of PD include smoking, caffeine, head trauma and exposure to solvents and other toxins. The inverse relationship between smoking and risk of PD (Hernan *et al.*, 2001; Allam *et al.*, 2004) and caffeine intake and risk of the disease (Ross *et al.*, 2000) was initially thought to be related to pre-morbid low sensation seeking personality traits rather than neuroprotective effects of these substances *per se* (Evans *et al.*, 2006). However, evidence from animal model studies has demonstrated that some compounds in tobacco reduce the breakdown of dopamine via inhibition of monoamine oxidase

(MAO) A and B, and that nicotine may enhance dopaminergic release within the striatum by actions on nicotinic acetylcholine (ACh) receptors (Quik *et al.*, 2012). Similarly, caffeine is an adenosine A2 receptor antagonist: These compounds normally reduce excessive motor activity through actions on the inhibitory gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) basal ganglia pathways (Jankovic, 2008). Phase III trials are currently on going to determine whether an adenosine A2 receptor antagonist can delay the onset of motor symptoms of PD and reduce striatal neuronal loss.

The concept of repeated severe head trauma as a cause of parkinsonism is not new; however, the association between head injury and idiopathic PD is disputed. One reason why studies have found conflicting results as to whether head injury precedes the disease is that history of trauma is difficult to assess due to recall bias. The most recent and largest study to date on the subject avoided the problem of recall bias by using hospital records of head injury in PD and control cases to determine the relationship between the two (Fang *et al.*, 2012). Although there was an increased risk of hospitalisation due to head injury in PD compared to control cases (odds ratio 1.42), the injuries generally occurred shortly before the index date (within a year), and the authors concluded that there was insufficient evidence to conclude that head trauma later in life increases the risk of PD. Possible explanations as to why this may have been biologically plausible include disruption to the blood-brain barrier with subsequent exposure to neurotoxins and the inflammatory response associated with brain injury (Morley and Duda, 2012).

More controversial in the aetiology of PD is exposure to solvents and subsequent risk of the disease. Trichloroethylene has been recognised as a potential risk factor for many years (Guehl *et al.*, 1999), and a recent case-control study using twin pairs discordant for PD added to this body of evidence (Goldman *et al.*, 2012b). In this study, 99 twin pairs were interviewed using a structured occupational questionnaire with respect to six specific solvents. Twins with PD were six times more likely to have been exposed to trichloroethylene than their unaffected co-twin, and there was also a trend towards significance for exposure to perchloroethylene and carbon tetrachloride and PD risk. Again this is biologically plausible and supported by rodent experiments demonstrating that these solvents trigger mitochondrial dysfunction and oxidative

stress, leading to degeneration of dopaminergic neurones in the SN (Sherer *et al.*, 2007; Liu *et al.*, 2010).

Finally, there is evidence that some lifetime-related exposures may protect against the development of PD. In a large longitudinal cohort study in Finland, individuals with adequate vitamin D status (vitamin D levels of at least 50 nmol/L) had a 65% lower risk than those with values less than 25 nmol/L after adjustment for several potential confounders including age, sex, physical activity and month of blood draw (Knekt *et al.*, 2010). Vitamin D receptors and 1- $\alpha$ -hydroxylase are widespread throughout the human brain in neurons and glial cells, and are found in high density in the hypothalamus and large neurons of the SN (Eyles *et al.*, 2005). Vitamin D may exert a neuroprotective effect through antioxidant activities, immunomodulation, and neuronal calcium regulation or by improving nerve conduction (Newmark and Newmark, 2007; Evatt, 2010).

In conclusion, the exact aetiology of Parkinson's disease in the majority of individuals remains unknown, but environmental, occupational, genetic and epigenetic factors may contribute. Determining the interplay of these factors is important in establishing the underlying disease mechanisms and in developing potential targets for treatment.

### **1.3 Pathological correlates of PD**

The pathological diagnosis of PD is typified by the loss of neuromelanin containing dopaminergic neurones in the SNpc, with LBs and Lewy neurites seen in surviving neurones. It is clear, however, that Lewy pathology is not limited to dopaminergic neurones, and also affects the cholinergic neurons of the nucleus basalis of Meynert (nbM), serotonergic neurones within the raphe nucleus and noradrenergic neurones in the locus coeruleus (Forno, 1996; Braak *et al.*, 2003). A major component of both LBs and Lewy neurites is an abnormally modified and aggregated form of  $\alpha$ -synuclein, normally a presynaptic protein. The precise mechanisms triggering fibrillization and aggregation of  $\alpha$ -synuclein remains the subject of debate, as does the inter-cellular transfer of  $\alpha$ -synuclein. One hypothesis, proposed by Braak and colleagues, is that transfer of Lewy pathology is not random but spreads from the medulla oblongata and olfactory nucleus in a caudo-rostral direction to further susceptible structures within the brainstem, limbic system and finally neocortical regions (Braak *et al.*, 2003). This corresponds with the presumed preclinical and premotor stages of PD (Figure 1-1).

Braak stages 1 and 2, where pathology is confined to the medulla, pontine tegmentum and olfactory nucleus correlates with a premotor phase, with autonomic features and hyposmia. Stages 3 and 4, when disease becomes symptomatic causing sleep and motor deficits, is associated with parallel neuropathology in the SN, other vulnerable areas of the midbrain and the basal forebrain. Braak stages 5 and 6, with the occurrence of cortical Lewy pathology, are associated with cognitive and other neuropsychiatric deficits (Braak *et al.*, 2004). Against this hypothesis is work demonstrating widespread LB pathology in dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB) and Alzheimer's disease (AD) without motor features consistent with PD, and also the absence of correlation between Braak staging and disease severity (Burke *et al.*, 2008). In addition, a large clinicopathological study established that over half of subjects with Braak stage 5 or 6 disease actually had no clinical signs of an extrapyramidal syndrome or dementia (Parkkinen *et al.*, 2008). A further contentious issue is where Lewy pathology begins within the brain: one theory is that the process of PD actually begins in the gut through exposure to toxic or infectious agents and spreads trans-synaptically via the dorsal motor nucleus to the central nervous system (Braak *et al.*, 2006; Hawkes *et al.*, 2007; Olanow, 2012; Shannon *et al.*, 2012a; Shannon *et al.*, 2012b). Lastly, the question of how  $\alpha$ -synuclein pathology propagates remains unanswered, and indeed how allografts of foetal ventral mesencephalic tissue transplanted into the striatum of PD patients can develop LB pathology (Kordower *et al.*, 2008; Li *et al.*, 2008). Theories include trans-synaptic spread through inflammation, oxidative stress or excitotoxic mechanisms (Li *et al.*, 2008; Lees *et al.*, 2009) or a prion-like process, where  $\alpha$ -synuclein misfolding initiates aggregation of the abnormal protein in adjacent cells by so-called "permissive templating" (Olanow and McNaught, 2011).

#### **1.4 Diagnosis of PD**

The diagnosis of PD remains based on clinical features, and depends critically on the demonstration of bradykinesia, defined as progressive fatiguing and decrement of repetitive alternating movements during finger or foot tapping (Abdo *et al.*, 2010), plus at least one of rigidity, 4-6Hz rest tremor and postural instability. Exclusion criteria include early severe autonomic involvement, neuroleptic treatment at onset of symptoms and early marked dementia, as these may point to alternative diagnoses (Hughes *et al.*, 1992). Three or more supporting features are required for a definite

diagnosis, comprising asymmetrical onset and progression, excellent response to levodopa and more recently, hyposmia and visual hallucinations (Lees *et al.*, 2009) (Table 1-2). The Queen Square Brain Bank (QSBB) criteria have been found to be highly accurate for the diagnosis of PD by movement disorder specialists, with a positive predictive value of 98.6%, negative predictive value of 90%, sensitivity 91.1% and specificity 98.4% in a longitudinal clinicopathological study (Hughes *et al.*, 2002).

The European Federation of Neurological Societies (EFNS) and Movement Disorder Society-European Section (MDS-ES) have recently published guidelines for the diagnosis of PD, and recommend the use of the QSBB criteria in the clinical diagnosis as Level B evidence (probably effective) (Berardelli *et al.*, 2013). In cases of diagnostic uncertainty, neuroimaging may be supportive (Berardelli *et al.*, 2013). Specifically, the use of single photon emission tomography (SPECT) with selective pre-synaptic radioligands targeting the dopamine transporter (DaTscan) can be a cost-effective method to differentiate degenerative parkinsonism and atypical tremor disorders or drug-induced parkinsonism (Level A evidence; effective). A newer recommendation is the use of transcranial sonography (TCS), as hyperechogenicity of the substantia nigra is associated with a classification accuracy of nearly 90% (Berg *et al.*, 2008; Gaenslen *et al.*, 2008). It is recommended that TCS can be used for the differentiation of PD from atypical and non-degenerative parkinsonian disorders, for the early diagnosis of PD and in the detection of subjects at risk for PD in conjunction with other screening tests. TCS is highly operator-dependent, however, and its use is still not widespread. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) at 1.5 Tesla can assist in discriminating PD and atypical parkinsonian disorders (Level B evidence), and lastly, olfactory testing can be used in confirming the diagnosis of PD (Level A evidence).

Table 1-2 Queen Square Brain Bank criteria for the diagnosis of Parkinson's disease

***Step 1 Diagnosis of parkinsonian syndrome***

Bradykinesia (slowness of initiation of voluntary movement with progressive reduction in speed and amplitude or repetitive actions) and at least one of the following:

- Muscular rigidity
- 4- to 6-Hz rest tremor
- Postural instability not caused by primary visual, vestibular, cerebellar or proprioceptive dysfunction

***Step 2 Exclusion criteria for Parkinson's disease***

- History of repeated strokes with stepwise progression of parkinsonian features
- History of repeated head injury
- History of definite encephalitis
- Oculogyric crises
- Neuroleptic treatment at onset of symptoms
- More than one affected relative
- Sustained remission
- Strictly unilateral features after 3 years
- Supranuclear gaze palsy
- Cerebellar signs
- Early severe autonomic involvement
- Early severe dementia with disturbances of memory, language and praxis
- Babinski sign
- Presence of a cerebral tumour or communicating hydrocephalus on CT scan
- Negative response to large doses of L-dopa (if malabsorption excluded)
- MPTP exposure

***Step 3 Supportive prospective positive criteria of Parkinson's disease. Three or more required for the diagnosis of definite Parkinson's disease:***

- Unilateral onset
- Rest tremor present
- Progressive disorder
- Persistent asymmetry affecting the side onset most
- Excellent response (70–100%) to L-dopa
- Severe L-dopa-induced chorea
- L-dopa response for 5 years or more
- Clinical course of 10 years or more
- Hyposmia
- Visual hallucinations

## **1.5 Clinical features of PD**

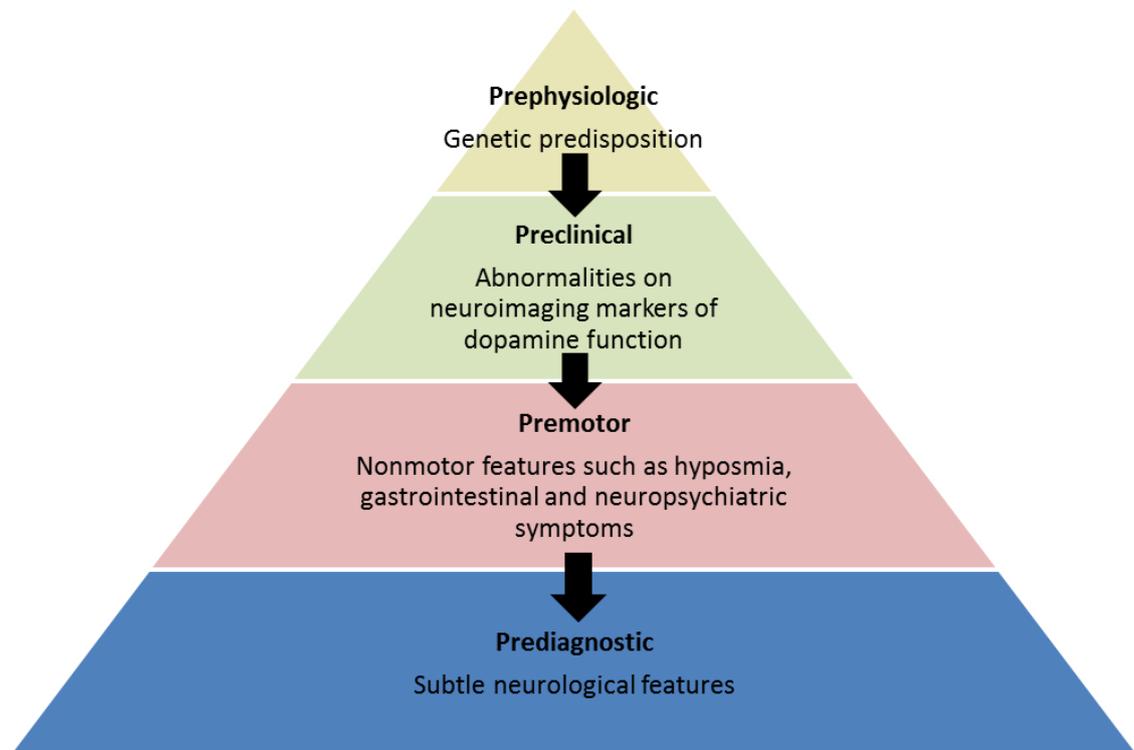
### **1.5.1 Motor features**

The motor features of PD usually begin insidiously after the loss of up to 60% of dopaminergic SN neurones (Fearnley and Lees, 1991; Damier *et al.*, 1999; Bohnen *et al.*, 2006a). Postural instability develops later in the disease and its presence early on should prompt consideration of an alternative diagnosis. Patients may complain of a loss of dexterity in tasks such as dressing or shaving, with or without associated micrographia, which may be noted more if the dominant hand is affected. Indeed handedness is likely to be associated with side of onset of the disease: A recent meta-analysis concluded that PD patients more often have symptoms affecting their dominant side (van der Hoorn *et al.*, 2012). Overall, 59.5% of right-handed patients had right-side dominant disease, with 59.2% of left-handed patients having predominantly left-sided symptoms (odds ratio 2.13; 95% confidence interval 1.71 - 2.66). Extrapyramidal rigidity may manifest as stiffness or non-specific muscular pains, with difficulty turning in bed or getting out of a low chair. Tremor may be noticed by family and is typically present at rest initially. Other motor features include hypomimia, hypophonia and dystonia.

### **1.5.2 Non-motor symptoms**

The morbidity and mortality associated with non-motor symptoms (NMS) in PD is increasingly recognised. NMS include gastrointestinal, urinary, cognitive, behavioural, sleep and cardiovascular symptoms. Previously thought of in the context of established disease (Parkinson, 1817), it is now recognised that NMS such as constipation, rapid eye movement (REM) behaviour disorder (RBD), depression and hyposmia often precede the motor features by many years and may represent a “Parkinson’s At Risk Syndrome” (PARS), allowing earlier diagnosis and a potential opportunity for more effective use of neuroprotective therapies (Stern and Siderowf, 2010). The PARS study developed by Stern and collaborators in the USA is currently in progress, with the aim of recruiting over 15,000 individuals, starting by screening for hyposmia (see ‘Premotor’ phase in Figure 1-1).

Figure 1-1 Parkinson's disease at risk syndrome. Modified from Stern and Siderowf, 2010



Other studies have demonstrated that NMS are common even early in the disease process. A large retrospective clinicopathological study of 433 subjects with pathologically-proven PD established that 21% of patients actually presented with NMS such as pain, urinary symptoms and neuropsychiatric features; these patients were also more likely to have had a delayed diagnosis than those presenting with motor symptoms (O'Sullivan *et al.*, 2008). A more recent study of 159 newly diagnosed PD participants and 99 age-matched controls in Newcastle demonstrated that even in those with a median disease duration of only 4.4 months, NMS were significantly more common in PD patients, with a mean number of 8.4 NMS experienced compared with 2.8 in controls (Khoo *et al.*, 2013). The commonest symptoms experienced were sialorrhea, urinary urgency, hyposmia, anxiety, and constipation (Table 1-3). Increasing motor severity was associated with a greater number of NMS.

NMS are a significant cause of disease burden in early PD and are associated with reduced functional status and sense of wellbeing. NMS with the greatest negative impact on health related quality of life, as measured by the Parkinson's Disease Quality of Life Questionnaire (PDQ-39) (Peto *et al.*, 1995), were depression, anxiety, RBD, sensation of incomplete bowel emptying, hyperhidrosis, leg swelling, diplopia,

impaired concentration and forgetfulness in the same study group (Duncan *et al.*, 2013a). In combination, these symptoms predicted 49% of the variance in quality of life.

As PD progresses, the frequency of NMS increases, with neuropsychiatric burden (depression, anxiety, apathy, psychosis and cognition) having a greater impact on quality of life than motor symptoms (Schrag *et al.*, 2000b; Schrag *et al.*, 2000a; Weintraub *et al.*, 2004b; Slawek *et al.*, 2005; Barone *et al.*, 2009; Martinez-Martin *et al.*, 2011). Despite this, NMS are under-recognised by clinicians and patients: the under-reporting of NMS ranged from 31.8% (diplopia) to 65.2% (delusions) in one cross-sectional international study (Chaudhuri *et al.*, 2010). Recognition of these symptoms is important as many are amenable to treatment, including dopaminergic therapy (Chaudhuri and Schapira, 2009; Zesiewicz *et al.*, 2010; Seppi *et al.*, 2011). Examples of this include pramipexole in the treatment of depression (Barone *et al.*, 2010; Seppi *et al.*, 2011) and clozapine in the treatment of psychosis (Morgante *et al.*, 2004; Merims *et al.*, 2006; Seppi *et al.*, 2011), both of which have been considered to be efficacious in an MDS evidence based review of treatments for NMS (Seppi *et al.*, 2011).

The heterogeneity of NMS experienced by people with PD indicates that they are not all caused by the same underlying pathological substrate and suggests that dopamine alone is unlikely to be the sole contributor. There is evidence that cholinergic dysfunction is important in the pathophysiology of cognitive impairment (Tiraboschi *et al.*, 2000; Bohnen *et al.*, 2003; Yarnall *et al.*, 2011; Yarnall *et al.*, 2013), depression (Bohnen *et al.*, 2007; Meyer *et al.*, 2009), hyposmia (Bohnen *et al.*, 2010) and falls (Bohnen *et al.*, 2009; Bohnen and Albin, 2011) in PD. In addition to ACh loss, depression in PD has been attributed to complex interactions between dopaminergic loss in the SN via mesolimbic circuits, serotonergic loss from the raphé nucleus and noradrenergic deficits due to degeneration of neurones in the locus coeruleus (Aarsland *et al.*, 2012). Changes in inflammatory and neurotrophic factors and psychosocial elements may also contribute to mood disorder (Aarsland *et al.*, 2012).

In conclusion, NMS are common in PD, even early in the disease process. As the disease progresses, the occurrence of NMS increases and impacts negatively on quality of life. Symptoms may not be recognised by patients or clinicians caring for them, despite the fact that they may be successfully treated. The underlying

pathophysiology is heterogeneous and likely to involve strategic neuronal loss and complex interactions between neurotransmitters throughout cortical and subcortical systems.

Table 1-3 Frequency of non-motor symptoms in PD and controls (Khoo et al, 2013);

\*denotes significant differences after Bonferroni correction for multiple tests

<b>Non-motor symptom</b>	<b>PD N (%)</b>	<b>Control N (%)</b>	<b>p-value</b>
<b>Gastrointestinal tract, n (%)</b>			
Sialorrhea	89 (56.0)	6 (6.1)	<0.001*
Dysphagia	32 (20.1)	3 (3.0)	<0.001*
Nausea	4 (2.5)	15 (15.2)	0.142
Constipation	67 (42.1)	7 (7.1)	<0.001*
Bowel incontinence	9 (5.7)	5 (5.1)	1.000
Incomplete bowel emptying	51 (32.1)	12 (12.1)	<0.001*
Hyposmia	71 (44.7)	10 (10.1)	<0.001*
Weight change (unexplained)	36 (22.6)	19 (19.2)	0.536
<b>Urinary tract, n (%)</b>			
Urinary urgency	74 (46.5)	19 (19.2)	<0.001*
Nocturia	42 (26.4)	17 (17.2)	0.095
<b>Sexual function, n (%)</b>			
Sexual dysfunction	33 (20.8)	10 (10.1)	0.026
Impaired libido	28 (17.6)	7 (7.1)	0.016
<b>Cardiovascular, n (%)</b>			
Orthostatic symptoms	53 (33.3)	11 (11.1)	<0.001*
Falls	37 (23.3)	4 (4.0)	<0.001*
Lower limb swelling	29 (18.2)	11 (11.2)	0.157
<b>Neuropsychiatric &amp; Cognitive, n (%)</b>			
Forgetfulness/ memory	88 (55.3)	41 (41.4)	0.040
Impaired concentration	47 (29.6)	2 (2.0)	<0.001*
Anxiety	68 (42.8)	10 (10.1)	<0.001*
Low mood	59 (37.1)	10 (10.1)	<0.001*
Loss of interest/ apathy	44 (27.7)	3 (3.0)	<0.001*
Delusions	1 (1.0)	0 (0.0)	1.000
Visual hallucinations	35 (22.0)	0 (0.0)	<0.001*
<b>Sleep, n (%)</b>			
Daytime somnolence	59 (37.1)	18 (18.2)	0.001*
Insomnia	28 (17.6)	13 (13.1)	0.385
Dream re-enactment	55 (34.6)	8 (8.1)	<0.001*
Vivid dream imagery	48 (30.2)	5 (5.1)	<0.001*
Restless legs	44 (27.7)	11(11.1)	0.002
<b>Pain, n (%)</b>			
Pain (unexplained)	60 (37.7)	3 (3.0)	<0.001*
<b>Miscellaneous, n (%)</b>			
Diplopia	16 (10.1)	3 (3.0)	0.048
Hyperhidrosis	16 (10.1)	6 (6.1)	0.360

### **1.5.3 Subtypes of PD**

As discussed above, patients with PD present with a diverse range of motor and non-motor symptoms, leading to considerable phenotypic heterogeneity. This has led researchers to hypothesise that idiopathic PD comprises specific subtypes that may be associated with distinct underlying pathophysiological processes. Cluster analysis of clinical data on prevalent and early stage PD participants recruited from separate centres in the UK identified three (Graham and Sagar, 1999) or four (Lewis *et al.*, 2005) main subgroups. Graham and Sagar divided participants into 'motor only', 'motor and cognitive' and 'rapidly progressive' clusters (Graham and Sagar, 1999), whilst Lewis and colleagues categorised those with early stage disease into: a) younger disease onset; b) tremor dominant; c) non-tremor dominant with cognitive impairment; and d) rapid disease progression without cognitive impairment (Lewis *et al.*, 2005). Certain characteristics differed across the subgroups described in the latter study, with those in the younger disease onset group (mean age at onset 50 years) experiencing slow disease progression, mild motor symptoms, motor fluctuations and less cognitive impairment or affective symptoms than the non-tremor dominant and rapidly progressive subtypes. Tremor dominant patients were similar to the former group, although had more prominent tremor and were older. Those with non-tremor dominant presentations displayed cognitive impairment, most notable within the executive domain, and more advanced motor disease, whilst those with rapid disease progression displayed a more aggressive motor disease course but minimal cognitive decline. Clinical classification of PD into motor phenotypes is useful and has consistently demonstrated that those with postural instability gait difficulty (PIGD) phenotype have more rapid disease progression than those who persistently have tremor dominant symptoms (Foltnie *et al.*, 2002; Post *et al.*, 2007). Importantly, this phenotype is also associated with accelerated cognitive decline and risk of dementia (Alves *et al.*, 2006; Burn *et al.*, 2006; Taylor *et al.*, 2008), in agreement with Lewis and colleagues (Lewis *et al.*, 2005), and may be due in part to loss of cholinergic neurons (Tiraboschi *et al.*, 2000).

These clinical findings were corroborated in part by a large retrospective clinicopathological study of 242 pathologically confirmed PD cases from QSBB (Selikhova *et al.*, 2009). Selikhova and colleagues confirmed that those with early onset shared similar characteristics to those classified by Lewis *et al.*, with greater time

to falls and cognitive decline but pathologically similar LB burden to tremor dominant phenotypes. Interestingly, those with tremor dominant disease did not have significantly longer disease duration than those with non-tremor dominant presentations. The latter group was strongly associated with the development of cognitive impairment, had a more extensive LB disease and had greater amyloid- $\beta$  plaque plus neurofibrillary tangle deposition than other subtypes. Participants with rapid disease progression tended to be older at disease onset, were more likely to have early midline motor deficits plus early depression, and to present with tremor dominant disease. The burden of LB disease was lower than in those who were non-tremor dominant, but similar to those with early onset and tremor dominant disease.

These clinicopathological findings from this group were generally consistent with those from an earlier study (Halliday *et al.*, 2008), where three subtypes of PD were defined pathologically. The group with younger onset had longer disease duration and conformed to the Braak staging hypothesis (Braak *et al.*, 2003). Around a quarter of cases were classified as having a dementia dominant syndrome, with severe neocortical LB pathology at disease onset, and the final subtype consisted of older age at onset, with shorter disease duration and a high cortical LB burden. The latter group also had significant co-existent AD and cerebrovascular pathology.

Despite these classifications, the course of clinically advanced PD seems to follow a typical trajectory regardless of age at death or age at disease onset, with a similar pathological outcome (Kempster *et al.*, 2010). The milestones of visual hallucinations (VH), frequent falls, cognitive impairment and care home placement consistently occurred approximately at 5, 4, 3.5 and 3 years before death, respectively. The presence of VH and dementia were associated with high cortical LB burden, with dementia also being associated with significant amyloid- $\beta$  plaque and neurofibrillary tangle deposition.

In summary, there is considerable phenotypic heterogeneity within the PD diagnostic “umbrella”. Clinical and pathological studies indicate that those with persistent non-tremor dominant symptoms are at greater risk of motor progression and cognitive decline, and this may be due to high cortical LB counts, Alzheimer-type pathology and cholinergic dysfunction.

## **1.6 Parkinson's disease dementia**

As discussed above, cognitive impairment is an important non-motor symptom in PD and has a considerable impact on both patients and their carers. The development of PD dementia (PDD) is a frequent and distressing complication of the disease, with a cumulative incidence approaching 80% in community based studies (Aarsland *et al.*, 2003a; Buter *et al.*, 2008; Hely *et al.*, 2008). PDD is associated with a twofold increase in mortality (Levy *et al.*, 2002c), a loss of independence (Aarsland *et al.*, 2000), increased caregiver strain (Aarsland *et al.*, 2007a) and increased healthcare costs (Vossius *et al.*, 2011), the latter largely due to the cost of institutionalisation. Within PDD, neuropsychiatric symptoms including depression, anxiety, apathy and hallucinations affect up to 90% of patients (Aarsland *et al.*, 2007a) and also significantly contribute to caregiver burden (Schrag *et al.*, 2006).

PDD shares many clinical, neuropsychological and neuropathological features with DLB; these diagnoses are separated by the timing of cognitive symptoms to motor onset. Those who develop cognitive dysfunction within a year of motor onset or prior to motor symptoms are classified as DLB, whilst those with extrapyramidal features for longer than one year before cognitive decline develops are designated as PDD (McKeith *et al.*, 2005; Lippa *et al.*, 2007). PDD and DLB are likely to represent different phenotypes of the same underlying disease process: indeed the characteristics of visual hallucinations (Mosimann *et al.*, 2004; Mosimann *et al.*, 2006), fluctuating cognition, attentional-executive plus visuoperceptual deficits (Noe *et al.*, 2004), neurotransmitter deficits (Klein *et al.*, 2010),  $\alpha$ -synuclein and Alzheimer-type pathology (Ballard *et al.*, 2006), neuroleptic sensitivity (Galvin *et al.*, 2006), REM sleep behaviour disorder (RBD) (Boeve *et al.*, 1998) and autonomic dysfunction (Allan *et al.*, 2006) are similar across both diseases. The major differences seen, aside from the temporal course, include the excess of amyloid deposition in DLB (Gomperts *et al.*, 2008), superior motor response to levodopa in PDD (Molloy *et al.*, 2005) and older age at onset in DLB.

### **1.6.1 Epidemiology of PDD**

PDD has an associated mortality risk (Levy *et al.*, 2002c), and therefore cumulative prevalence is a more accurate representation of dementia frequency than cross-sectional assessments, which may underestimate the risk of dementia. As stated

above, the cumulative risk varies from 78% at eight years (Aarsland *et al.*, 2003a), to 60% at 12 years (Buter *et al.*, 2008) and 83% at 20 years (Hely *et al.*, 2008). The point prevalence of dementia in patients with PD is between 24 and 31%, with 3 to 4% of dementia in the population attributable to PDD (Aarsland *et al.*, 2005b). The prevalence of PDD in the general population aged 65 and over is approximately 0.2 to 0.5% (Aarsland *et al.*, 2005b). Compared to subjects without PD, those with the disease have between a two- and six-fold increased risk of dementia (Marder *et al.*, 1995; Aarsland *et al.*, 2001; Hobson and Meara, 2004; de Lau *et al.*, 2005). The mean age at diagnosis of PDD is between 71 and 78 years, with an average PD disease duration at that time of between 10 and 14 years (Hughes *et al.*, 2000; Aarsland *et al.*, 2003a; Hely *et al.*, 2008). Considerable heterogeneity exists in the timescale to develop dementia from disease onset; some patients develop cognitive impairment within a few years of diagnosis, whilst others remain cognitively intact for 10 to 20 years. Although the risk of dementia increases as disease progresses, a degree of cognitive impairment may be present at diagnosis in over a third of people with PD (Foltynie *et al.*, 2004). Over a follow-up of five years, 17% of these incident cases developed dementia, with an incidence of 38.7 per 1000 person-years (95% confidence interval 23.9 – 59.3) (Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2009a).

### **1.6.2 Risk factors for PDD**

The greatest risk factor for the development of PDD is increasing age (Hughes *et al.*, 2000; Aarsland *et al.*, 2001; Hobson and Meara, 2004; Aarsland *et al.*, 2007b; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2007a; Uc *et al.*, 2009; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2009a). Severity of parkinsonism increases risk of cognitive decline (Hughes *et al.*, 2000; Aarsland *et al.*, 2001; Green *et al.*, 2002; Uc *et al.*, 2009), and acts synergistically with age (Levy *et al.*, 2002b). Other established risk factors include the presence of hallucinations (Aarsland *et al.*, 2003a; Hobson and Meara, 2004; Galvin *et al.*, 2006), symmetry of motor symptoms and PIGD phenotype (Aarsland *et al.*, 2003a; Alves *et al.*, 2006; Burn *et al.*, 2006; Uc *et al.*, 2009), RBD (Vendette *et al.*, 2007; Postuma *et al.*, 2012), male gender (Galvin *et al.*, 2006; Uc *et al.*, 2009) and mild cognitive impairment at baseline (Hobson and Meara, 2004; Janvin *et al.*, 2006; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2007a; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2009a). The presence of apathy (Dujardin *et al.*, 2009; Butterfield *et al.*, 2010; Ziropadja *et al.*, 2012), depression (Starkstein *et al.*, 1992), disease duration (Green *et*

*al.*, 2002; Hobson and Meara, 2004), orthostatic hypotension (Allcock *et al.*, 2006), reduced educational level (Green *et al.*, 2002), hyposmia (Bohnen *et al.*, 2010; Baba *et al.*, 2012) and gastrointestinal or urological symptoms (Uc *et al.*, 2009) in the context of cognitive decline are additional potential risk factors that require further evaluation.

The use of anticholinergic drugs to treat bladder dysfunction, mood and pain is still widespread, especially amongst older patients, and over-the-counter medications which antagonise muscarinic receptors, such as diphenhydramine (an antihistamine), are also freely available. Many PD patients with urinary urgency, low mood or pain may be treated with these drugs, and evidence suggests that they may accelerate cognitive decline (Ehrt *et al.*, 2010). Thus, chronic use (more than two years) of antimuscarinic drugs in patients with PD has been associated with more than twice the number of cortical plaques or tangles compared to those who had used the drugs for less than two years or not at all (Perry *et al.*, 2003). Although no difference was noted between those with documented confusion, it suggests that anticholinergic drugs increase Alzheimer pathology and hence may contribute to cognitive impairment in PD. It should, however, be noted that this work has not yet been replicated and therefore should be treated with some caution. Additionally, pharmacological studies have shown a deficit in memory in those with Parkinson's disease treated with anticholinergic drugs when compared to those who had not received this class of drugs (Dubois *et al.*, 1987; Cooper *et al.*, 1992), and scopolamine, a drug with potent antimuscarinic activity, caused a transient reversible subcortico-frontal syndrome when administered at subclinical doses to those with PD but not control participants (Bedard *et al.*, 1999). More recently, in a longitudinal cohort study, those PD subjects who had taken drugs with proven anticholinergic activity had a significant median decline in their Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE) score of 6.5 points over 8 years, compared to just 1 point in those who had not used those drugs (Ehrt *et al.*, 2010). This class effect of drugs is not just limited to PD patients. In older adults, it has long been recognised that anticholinergic activity is associated with delirium (Han *et al.*, 2001; Tune, 2001), cognitive decline (Mulsant *et al.*, 2003) and even slowing of gait speed (Nebes *et al.*, 2007). Hence, anticholinergic drug use is likely to be an additional risk factor for cognitive decline in PD.

The majority of the risk factors discussed above have been assessed in prevalent PD cohorts. In a longitudinal community-based incident PD cohort in the UK, age of greater than or equal to 72 combined with posterior cortical deficits (impaired semantic fluency and pentagon copying) had an odds ratio of 88 for dementia within the first 5 years of diagnosis (Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2007a; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2009a). The strongest independent risk factor, however, for cognitive decline was the presence of the microtubule-associated protein tau (*MAPT*) H1/H1 genotype (Goris *et al.*, 2007; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2009a), with an estimated odds ratio of 12.1. This is supported by a more recent study demonstrating that the *MAPT* H1 haplotype was found in considerably more patients with PDD than controls (Seto-Salvia *et al.*, 2011). The mechanism of action is speculated to be that of protein aggregation.

Other genes that may confer an increased risk of cognitive decline in PD have been investigated. Whilst apolipoprotein E (*APOE*) has been established as a risk factor for the development of Alzheimer's disease (AD), studies in cognitive decline in PD have produced conflicting results. The three common alleles of *APOE* ( $\epsilon$ 2,  $\epsilon$ 3 and  $\epsilon$ 4) produce differing risks for AD, with  $\epsilon$ 2 being protective and  $\epsilon$ 4 both increasing the risk and reducing the age at onset of AD (Farrer *et al.*, 1997). Mechanisms by which *APOE*  $\epsilon$ 4 may operate include promoting the deposition of amyloid- $\beta$  ( $A\beta$ ) throughout the cortex, accelerating the configuration of amyloid from benign diffuse amyloid accumulation to neurotoxic  $\beta$ -pleated sheet aggregations, and increasing the frequency of neuritic plaque formation with associated cholinergic loss (Cummings *et al.*, 1998). Given the growing body of evidence implicating  $A\beta$  in the pathophysiology of PDD (Masliah *et al.*, 2001; Pletnikova *et al.*, 2005; Lashley *et al.*, 2008; Clinton *et al.*, 2010; Siderowf *et al.*, 2010; Compta *et al.*, 2011b), it would seem likely that the *APOE*  $\epsilon$ 4 genotype would increase the risk of PDD. However, the largest case-control study to date in 528 PD patients and 512 controls did not confirm this theory, with no association found between *APOE*  $\epsilon$ 4 carriers and cognitive decline (Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2009b). The same paper included an updated meta-analysis of 4,198 PD cases and 10,066 controls, where only a modestly increased risk of cognitive decline was found in *APOE*  $\epsilon$ 4 carriers (odds ratio 1.74, 95% confidence interval 1.36 - 2.23). However, the authors cautioned against interpreting this as a positive result, citing small sample sizes, heterogeneous odds ratios and possible publication bias as confounding factors, with further longitudinal studies of several thousand participants required to draw

reliable conclusions (Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2009b). Although a more recent longitudinal study did find that PD patients who were *APOE*  $\epsilon$ 4 carriers experienced more rapid cognitive decline (Morley *et al.*, 2012), the number of PD participants was relatively small (212) and the follow up was relatively short, with no control group included. Therefore, at present, there is insufficient evidence to ascertain whether *APOE* influences cognition in PD.

Mutations in the glucocerebrosidase (*GBA*) gene increase the risk of PD (Sidransky *et al.*, 2009) and are over-represented in other Lewy body diseases (Clark *et al.*, 2009). There is also growing evidence that carriers of *GBA* mutations are at increased risk of cognitive decline (Neumann *et al.*, 2009; Alcalay *et al.*, 2012; Seto-Salvia *et al.*, 2012; Winder-Rhodes *et al.*, 2013). Biological plausibility for this theory originates in mouse models of Gaucher's disease (caused by homozygous loss-of-function *GBA* alleles), where an accumulation of  $\alpha$ -synuclein/ubiquitin aggregates within the hippocampal neurones was noted, with a corresponding memory deficit (Sardi *et al.*, 2011). This is corroborated by post-mortem work in PD patients demonstrating more widespread cortical Lewy body deposition in those with *GBA* mutations than matched PD controls (Neumann *et al.*, 2009).

Other genes implicated in cognitive impairment in PD include butyrylcholinesterase-K (*BuChE-K*), catechol-*O*-methyltransferase (*COMT*), brain-derived neurotrophic factor (*BDNF*) and *SNCA* (Foltynie *et al.*, 2005; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2007b; Ikeuchi *et al.*, 2008; Lane *et al.*, 2009; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2009a). Duplications and triplications of *SNCA* are associated with parkinsonism and dementia (Ikeuchi *et al.*, 2008), and variations in *BuChE-K* act synergistically with *APOE* in Lewy body dementias (Lane *et al.*, 2009). Polymorphisms in the *COMT* (val<sup>158</sup>met) genotype produce differing levels of dopamine release in the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex and exert differing cognitive influences during the PD time course, with met homozygotes performing worse on tests of executive function in early disease and better as the disease progresses; the pattern is reversed for those with val/val polymorphisms (Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2007b; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2009a). However, *COMT* genotype does not influence overall cognitive decline and risk of dementia (Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2009a; Morley *et al.*, 2012).

In summary, many risk factors have been postulated for cognitive decline in PD. The most robust are increasing age, male gender, visual hallucinations, motor severity and

phenotype, cognitive impairment at baseline and *MAPT* H1/H1 haplotype. Variations in risk factors are likely to partly explain the heterogeneity of cognitive impairment seen in PD.

### **1.6.3 Profile of cognitive impairment in PDD**

Although heterogeneous in nature (Verleden *et al.*, 2007), the cognitive profile of PDD differs from that of AD, with deficits in attention being one of the strongest predictors of PDD (Bronnick *et al.*, 2007). Furthermore, attentional deficit is an important determinant of inability to perform instrumental and physical activities of daily living, even after controlling for age, sex, motor function and other cognitive profiles (Bronnick *et al.*, 2006). Scores of attention also predict falls in PD (Allcock *et al.*, 2009). In addition to impairments in attention, visuospatial and executive dysfunction are characteristic, and cognitive symptoms typically fluctuate (Troster, 2008). Patients with PDD tend to perform worse than AD patients on demanding attentional tasks and in tasks requiring executive skills; these differences seen between the disorders become more pronounced as dementia progresses. Executive problems are a common feature of PDD (Aarsland *et al.*, 2003b) and lead to disturbances in adaptive, goal-directed behaviour. Executive dysfunction can manifest as difficulties in planning, set-shifting, mental flexibility, abstraction, solving multiple step problems, selection of information, resisting cognitive interference and in the retrieval of information (Kehagia *et al.*, 2010). Although many patients with PDD have a cognitive profile resembling that of DLB with a fronto-striatal executive syndrome and visuospatial deficits, a proportion may display more mnemonic and other temporo-parietal disturbances (Kehagia *et al.*, 2010): this spectrum is likely to represent differing contributions of underlying pathologies. The characteristics of the cognitive deficits seen in PDD and neuropsychological tests that may be useful are shown in Table 1-4.

Table 1-4 Pattern of cognitive deficits in PDD and example of tests used in diagnosis

Cognitive Domain	Description of cognitive deficit	Examples of neuropsychological tests
<b>Executive</b>	↓↓ verbal fluency, ↓ set-shifting, planning & concept formation; may influence memory functions	Verbal fluency (semantic & phonemic); ToL/SoC (CANTAB); WCST; Stroop
<b>Attention &amp; Working Memory</b>	Fluctuating alertness; auditory and visual attentional deficits	Digit span; Trail Making Test
<b>Memory</b>	Episodic memory less affected than AD; ↓ visual & verbal memory; recall > recognition affected early on	Free and cued recall, e.g. CVLT or RAVLT
<b>Visuospatial &amp; constructural function</b>	Globally impaired visual perception (predisposes to VH); impaired size and form discrimination; ↓ face recognition; marked impairment on clock-drawing test	Clock-drawing test; Benton's judgement of line orientation
<b>Language</b>	Less impairment than AD; less affected until severe disease	Boston naming test

ToL Tower of London test; SoC Stocking of Cambridge (both from CANTAB [Cambridge Neuropsychological Test Automated Battery]); WCST Wisconsin Card Sorting Test; CVLT California Verbal Learning Test; RAVLT Rey's Auditory Verbal Learning Test; VH visual hallucinations

#### 1.6.4 Clinical features of PDD

The onset of cognitive decline in PDD is insidious, with an associated slow progression of disease. In a prospective study of prevalent PD in Norway, participants were followed longitudinally for up to eight years and compared with AD and control subjects (Aarsland *et al.*, 2004). The mean annual decline in MMSE score in all PD patients was 1.1 but varied widely; those who developed PDD had a mean annual decline of 2.3, which was similar to that seen in AD (2.6). A comparable decline in MMSE score was seen in a later study of PDD and DLB, where a mean fall of 4.5 points (3.9 for DLB) was seen over a two-year period (Burn *et al.*, 2006).

Neuropsychiatric features are ubiquitous in PDD, and indeed their presence forms supportive criteria for the diagnosis of dementia in PD (Emre *et al.*, 2007). In a multi-centre study of 537 PDD patients, 89% of subjects had at least one symptom on the Neuropsychiatric Inventory (NPI) and 77% had two or more symptoms (Aarsland *et al.*, 2007a). Symptom burden was associated with more advanced PD and more severe

dementia. Visual hallucinations (VH) occur more commonly in PDD than PD, with frequencies of between 30-50% for PD (Fenelon *et al.*, 2000; Holroyd *et al.*, 2001; Williams and Lees, 2005) but 45-65% in PDD (Aarsland *et al.*, 2007a; Goetz *et al.*, 2008a). VH are more common than auditory hallucinations, which in turn occur more frequently than tactile or olfactory hallucinations (Fenelon and Alves, 2010). More benign visual phenomena such as a sense of 'passage' or 'presence' may occur early in PD, with subsequent illusions, simple visual hallucinations then complex formed VH as PDD progresses (Fenelon and Alves, 2010). Delusions including paranoid ideation and phantom boarder may be present in over a quarter of patients (Goetz *et al.*, 2008a). Other neuropsychiatric features commonly encountered in PDD are depression, anxiety and apathy (Aarsland *et al.*, 2007a).

Lastly, other clinical characteristics of PDD include an over-representation of the PIGD motor phenotype (Burn *et al.*, 2006), autonomic dysfunction (Allan *et al.*, 2007) and sleep disturbance. RBD is a risk factor for the development of dementia in PD (Postuma *et al.*, 2012), and both excessive daytime somnolence and poor sleep quality are commonly reported (Boddy *et al.*, 2007).

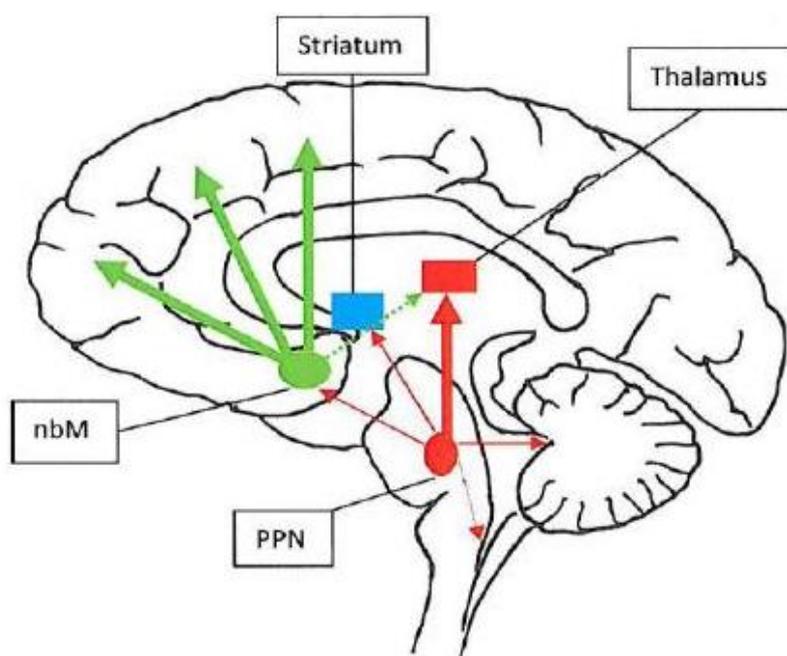
### **1.6.5 Pathogenesis**

The pathophysiology of PDD is poorly understood and may vary between individuals, with post-mortem studies producing conflicting findings. Potential contributors to the underlying pathology include LBs and  $\alpha$ -synuclein, A $\beta$  plaque deposition, tau pathology, neuronal and synaptic loss, diffuse cerebrovascular disease and neurotransmitter changes, including degeneration of the cholinergic systems. Braak hypothesised that as PD progresses to stages 5 and 6, LB pathology reaches the limbic and neocortical regions (Braak *et al.*, 2004): indeed there is evidence that the development of dementia occurs with this disease progression (Braak *et al.*, 2005). Several studies have implicated these limbic and cortical LBs as the main substrate for driving cognitive decline in PD (Hurtig *et al.*, 2000; Mattila *et al.*, 2000; Apaydin *et al.*, 2002; Aarsland *et al.*, 2005a). However, recent studies highlight the importance of A $\beta$  deposition in the development of PDD (Sabbagh *et al.*, 2009; Halliday and McCann, 2010; Compta *et al.*, 2011b). Furthermore, a synergistic interaction between  $\alpha$ -synuclein and A $\beta$  accumulation has been found both *in vitro* (Pletnikova *et al.*, 2005; Lashley *et al.*, 2008) and in transgenic mice models (Masliah *et al.*, 2001; Clinton *et al.*,

2010), with evidence that A $\beta$  promotes  $\alpha$ -synuclein fibrillization and hence may influence the progression of cognitive decline (Masliah *et al.*, 2001). The observation that A $\beta$  plaque burden, specifically diffuse plaque load, correlates with overall cortical LB burden strengthens the concept of a synergistic effect between these major pathological proteins (Lashley *et al.*, 2008). Age at disease onset and disease duration also contributes to the pathological findings associated with PDD (Kempster *et al.*, 2010), with older age at disease onset and cortical A $\beta$  score predicting shorter time to dementia onset (Compta *et al.*, 2011b). Furthermore, older age increases the likelihood of age-associated pathologies; even in older subjects without PD, LB pathology is common and is associated with AD-type changes (Zaccai *et al.*, 2008). Age can also be associated with increased vascular burden, which in turn may contribute to PDD in some patients (Jellinger and Attems, 2008; Sonnen *et al.*, 2010). In addition, synaptic dysfunction in LB diseases could further influence the pathological process, as illustrated in a study of DLB demonstrating a post-synaptic loss of dendritic spines due to aggregation of pre-synaptic  $\alpha$ -synuclein (Kramer and Schulz-Schaeffer, 2007).

The variability and fluctuations seen in the clinical aspects of PDD suggests that at least some of the cognitive deficits may be the result of functional neurotransmitter imbalance or synaptic malfunction, rather than a structural substrate: In this context ACh loss almost certainly contributes to PDD. Through modulation within open circuits connecting structures to the basal ganglia, the cholinergic system has widespread influence upon a number of functions, including cognition, attention, gait and postural stability (Yarnall *et al.*, 2011). In the brain, ACh is supplied by three main sources (Figure 1-2). Neuronal loss within the pedunculopontine nucleus (PPN) and nucleus basalis of Meynert (nbM), in particular, are likely to be important in the pathogenesis of PDD. The PPN is located in the caudal mesopontine tegmentum and comprises a significant population of cholinergic neurons, although other neurotransmitters in this structurally heterogeneous nucleus include glutamate, gamma amino-butyric acid (GABA) and dopamine (Jenkinson *et al.*, 2009). The cholinergic neurones of the PPN and the nbM are known loci of degeneration in PD, with the striatal cholinergic system remaining relatively preserved (Calabresi *et al.*, 2006). The nbM undergoes profound degeneration in PD (Arendt *et al.*, 1983; Nakano and Hirano, 1984), with more severe cholinergic loss being associated with cognitive impairment (Zweig *et al.*, 1993; Jellinger, 2006).

Figure 1-2 Schematic representation of the cholinergic output in the cortex



Cholinergic interneurons in the striatum are shown in blue. The pedunculo pontine nucleus (PPN; shown in red) provides the majority of cholinergic input to the thalamus, with other projections to the nucleus basalis of Meynert (nbM), striatum, substantia nigra, subthalamic nucleus, globus pallidus interna, cerebellum and spinal cord. The nbM (shown in green) sends cholinergic projections to the cerebral cortex, and also to thalamic nuclei.

Further support for a cholinergic basis for cognitive impairment in PD originates from autopsy studies indicating that a midfrontal cholinergic deficit is more severe in patients with Lewy bodies than in AD (Tiraboschi *et al.*, 2000). Additionally, in AD with diffusely distributed Lewy bodies, cholinergic deficits in the caudate, frontal, temporal and parietal cortex are more pronounced than in pure AD (Langlais *et al.*, 1993). Although previously much of the evidence for altered cholinergic transmission was derived *in vitro*, the advent of positron emission tomography (PET) offers the opportunity of measuring acetylcholinesterase (AChE), a surrogate marker for cortical cholinergic activity, *in vivo*. AChE PET imaging in AD and PDD of equal global dementia severity demonstrated a greater reduction in cortical AChE activity in PDD compared to AD (Bohnen *et al.*, 2003). The reduction in cortical AChE activity was also greater in non-demented PD subjects compared to those with AD. More specifically, a reduction in AChE activity correlated with poorer performance in tests of executive and attentional function (Bohnen *et al.*, 2006b), hallmarks of the type of cognitive impairment seen in PD. Thus forebrain cholinergic system degeneration seems to

occur early in PD, with deteriorating cognition associated with more severe cortical cholinergic loss (Bohnen *et al.*, 2003; Shimada *et al.*, 2009; Bohnen and Albin, 2011). In addition to ACh, other neurotransmitters have been implicated in the pathophysiology of cognitive impairment and may interact with the cholinergic system. Calabresi and colleagues proposed a convergent neurochemical model to explain cognitive deficits that occur in PD (Calabresi *et al.*, 2006). They suggested that noradrenergic and serotonergic deficits in PD (supported by post-mortem work (Scatton *et al.*, 1983)) may influence dopamine and ACh release, which in turn affects synaptic plasticity and has a detrimental effect on the storage of neural information (Calabresi *et al.*, 2006). Neurotransmitters may also interact with other pathophysiological processes and influence cognition. Evidence of a neuromodulatory influence of A $\beta$  on cholinergic function has been demonstrated, with concentrations of A $\beta$  negatively affecting ACh synthesis and release (Kar *et al.*, 2004). Serotonin neurotransmission has been shown to alter cortical A $\beta$  levels, with a reduction in plaque load demonstrated in both a transgenic mice model of AD and in healthy older adults following administration of a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (Cirrito *et al.*, 2011). In PD, a recent small imaging study demonstrated an inverse correlation between serotonin and amyloid binding (Kotagal *et al.*, 2012b).

In summary, the pathophysiological process underlying PDD is heterogeneous and is likely to differ between individuals. The co-existence of  $\alpha$ -synuclein, A $\beta$  and tau deposition; neuronal loss; and neurochemical dysfunction has similarities with AD and suggests there may be common mechanisms triggering neurodegeneration and fibrillary protein aggregation (Jellinger, 2010a). Understanding this pathogenic process in PDD is important for prognostication and developing appropriate therapeutic agents in the future.

### **1.6.6 Biomarkers in PDD**

A biomarker is defined as a biological characteristic that is objectively measured and evaluated as an indicator of normal biological or pathologic processes or of pharmacologic responses to a therapeutic intervention. There are many biomarkers that have been proposed as possible candidates for the development of PDD; these cover different modalities and are shown in Table 1-5 (Svenningsson *et al.*, 2012).

Table 1-5 Studies of potential biomarkers in PDD (adapted from Svenningsson 2012)

Biomarker	Biomarker subtype	Findings	Reference(s)
<b>Imaging</b>	Structural MRI	Atrophy temporal, parietal & occipital cortices in PDD  Hippocampal plus parieto-temporal atrophy predicted cognitive impairment	(Burton <i>et al.</i> , 2004; Beyer <i>et al.</i> , 2007; Song <i>et al.</i> , 2011; Weintraub <i>et al.</i> , 2011; Melzer <i>et al.</i> , 2012)  (Weintraub <i>et al.</i> , 2012)
	<sup>18</sup> F-DG-PET	Widespread cortical metabolism in PDD; especially temporal, parietal & occipital areas  ↓ perfusion occipital & posterior cingulate cortices predicted dementia	(Huang <i>et al.</i> , 2007; Jokinen <i>et al.</i> , 2010; Klein <i>et al.</i> , 2010)  (Bohnen <i>et al.</i> , 2011)
	PiB PET	No difference in PiB amyloid binding in PDD vs. PD-CN  PiB binding at baseline predicted ↓ cognition during longitudinal follow-up	(Foster <i>et al.</i> , 2010; Gomperts <i>et al.</i> , 2012)  (Gomperts <i>et al.</i> , 2013)
	AChE PET	Widespread ↓AChE activity in PDD: this correlated with attention/ executive function	(Bohnen <i>et al.</i> , 2003; Bohnen <i>et al.</i> , 2006b; Shimada <i>et al.</i> , 2009)
	SPECT perfusion	Hypoperfusion parietal/ occipital regions in cognitive impairment	(Firbank <i>et al.</i> , 2003; Nobili <i>et al.</i> , 2009)
<b>CSF</b>	Aβ42	↓ PDD>PD-MCI>PD-CN; Aβ correlated with memory impairment  ↓ Aβ42 predicted cognitive decline during longitudinal follow-up	(Mollenhauer <i>et al.</i> , 2006b; Compta <i>et al.</i> , 2009; Alves <i>et al.</i> , 2010; Montine <i>et al.</i> , 2010)  (Siderowf <i>et al.</i> , 2010)
	tau	Mixed results	(Mollenhauer <i>et al.</i> , 2006b; Compta <i>et al.</i> , 2009; Alves <i>et al.</i> , 2010; Montine <i>et al.</i> , 2010)
	α-synuclein	↓ total α-syn in PD & DLB cf controls/AD	(Hong <i>et al.</i> , 2010; Mollenhauer <i>et al.</i> , 2011b)
	<b>Plasma</b>	Epidermal growth factor	↓ EGF levels predicted cognitive decline
<b>Neuro-physiology</b>	EEG	Low background rhythm frequency predicted cognitive decline	(Klassen <i>et al.</i> , 2011)
	SAI	Abnormal SAI in PDD and PD-MCI cf controls	(Celebi <i>et al.</i> , 2012; Yarnall <i>et al.</i> , 2013)

Neuroimaging methods used to predict PDD have included both structural and functional techniques. These are discussed in some detail in section 1.7.4, but in brief, structural imaging has demonstrated that atrophy of the parietal, temporal and occipital cortices occur in cross-sectional studies of those with PDD or mild cognitive impairment (PD-MCI) compared with those with normal cognition (PD-CN) (Burton *et al.*, 2004; Beyer *et al.*, 2007; Song *et al.*, 2011; Weintraub *et al.*, 2011; Melzer *et al.*, 2012). In a recent longitudinal study, an AD-type pattern of atrophy on MRI predicted long-term cognitive decline in PD subjects (Weintraub *et al.*, 2012). Cortical hypometabolism and hypoperfusion were noted in similar areas using positron emission tomography (PET) and single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT), respectively, in those with PD and cognitive impairment (Firbank *et al.*, 2003; Huang *et al.*, 2007; Nobili *et al.*, 2009; Jokinen *et al.*, 2010; Klein *et al.*, 2010); with a longitudinal study indicating that cerebral hypometabolism in the visual association and posterior cingulate cortices may predict the development of dementia (Bohnen *et al.*, 2011). PET imaging using radiolabelled metabolites of acetylcholinesterase (AChE) as a marker of ACh activity has demonstrated widespread reductions in AChE in those with PDD compared with AD and control participants (Bohnen *et al.*, 2003; Shimada *et al.*, 2009). Lastly, in terms of imaging, a recent study of amyloid burden detected using Pittsburgh Compound B (PiB) PET has shown promise in predicting cognitive decline in PD, with a higher baseline PiB retention and a diagnosis of PD-MCI associated with worsening cognition at follow-up (Gomperts *et al.*, 2013). Greater amyloid deposition at baseline also predicted executive impairment over time.

Other biomarkers that may be used to predict PDD include cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), plasma proteins and neurophysiological techniques. CSF and short latency afferent inhibition (SAI) as biomarkers are discussed in further detail in Chapter 3 and 4, respectively. Epidermal growth factor (EGF) is a plasma protein that has been postulated to support dopaminergic neurons as a neurotrophic factor, and has been associated with both baseline cognition and an eight-fold risk of progression to dementia for those with EGF levels in the lowest quartile (Chen-Plotkin *et al.*, 2011). In a smaller study of *de novo* PD subjects followed over two years, baseline EGF levels predicted poorer performance in frontal and temporal cognitive function (Pellecchia *et al.*, 2013). Finally, quantitative EEG may be used as a predictive biomarker for the development of dementia (Klassen *et al.*, 2011). In a prospective study of 106 non-

demented PD participants, those with lower than median background rhythm frequency were 13-times more likely to develop dementia than those with normal rhythms over a mean duration of 3.3 years. The authors hypothesised that disruption in the default network (defined as the network of brain region activity that occurs during the cognitive resting state), perhaps due to amyloid deposition, could explain these findings (Klassen *et al.*, 2011).

In conclusion, many biomarkers have been studied as possible predictors of dementia in PD. Due to the complexity and heterogeneity of the underlying pathophysiological processes it is unlikely that a single biomarker will predict PDD. But, taken together, these laboratory, imaging and clinical risk factors may allow clinicians to predict which patients are most likely to progress to this state, thus allowing better use of targeted interventions and improved prognostication.

#### **1.6.7 Diagnosis of PDD**

Based on a comprehensive literature review of the clinical, psychological and behavioural features of PDD, the Movement Disorder Society (MDS) Task Force developed clinical criteria for the diagnosis of probable and possible PDD in 2007 (Table 1-6 and Table 1-7) (Emre *et al.*, 2007). The diagnosis of PDD should occur within the context of PD, with impairment in two or more cognitive domains (attention, executive, visuospatial or memory) that is severe enough to affect activities of daily living. Behavioural features such as apathy, depression, anxiety, excessive daytime somnolence, hallucinations and delusions are supportive features but are not necessary for the diagnosis. The MDS Task Force also produced recommendations in the same year for the operationalization of the diagnostic criteria based on two levels (Dubois *et al.*, 2007). Level I assessment can be used by any clinician and does not require neuropsychological expertise (Table 1-8). MMSE score should be < 26, with impairment in two or more cognitive functions measured by: counting months backward or serial 7's (attention); phonemic fluency or clock-drawing test (executive function); pentagon copying (visuospatial); or 3-word recall from the MMSE (memory). The presence of apathy, depressed mood, delusions or excessive daytime sleepiness, as measured by the four-item Neuropsychiatric Inventory, may support the diagnosis of probable PDD. Level II assessment requires detailed neuropsychological testing, and

is recommended when there is uncertainty regarding the diagnosis or in the context of research or pharmaceutical trials.

Table 1-6 Features associated with dementia in PD (Emre *et al.*, 2007)

<p><b>I. Core features</b></p> <p>1. Diagnosis of PD according to QSBB criteria</p> <p>2. A dementia syndrome with insidious onset and slow progression, developing within the context of established Parkinson's disease and diagnosed by history, clinical, and mental examination, defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impairment in &gt;1 cognitive domain</li> <li>• Representing a decline from premorbid level</li> <li>• Deficits severe enough to impair daily life (social, occupational, or personal care), independent of the impairment ascribable to motor or autonomic symptoms</li> </ul>
<p><b>II. Associated clinical features</b></p> <p>1. Cognitive features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Attention</i>: Impaired. Impairment in spontaneous and focused attention, poor performance in attentional tasks; performance may fluctuate during the day and from day to day</li> <li>• <i>Executive functions</i>: Impaired. Impairment in tasks requiring initiation, planning, concept formation, rule finding, set shifting or set maintenance; impaired mental speed (bradyphrenia)</li> <li>• <i>Visuospatial functions</i>: Impaired. Impairment in tasks requiring visual-spatial orientation, perception, or construction</li> <li>• <i>Memory</i>: Impaired. Impairment in free recall of recent events or in tasks requiring learning new material, memory usually improves with cueing, recognition is usually better than free recall</li> <li>• <i>Language</i>: Core functions largely preserved. Word finding difficulties and impaired comprehension of complex sentences may be present</li> </ul> <p>2. Behavioural features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Apathy</i>: decreased spontaneity; loss of motivation, interest, and effortful behaviour</li> <li>• Changes in personality and mood including depressive features and anxiety</li> <li>• <i>Hallucinations</i>: mostly visual, usually complex, formed visions of people, animals or objects</li> <li>• <i>Delusions</i>: usually paranoid, such as infidelity, or phantom boarder, delusions</li> <li>• Excessive daytime sleepiness</li> </ul>
<p><b>III. Features which do not exclude PDD, but make the diagnosis uncertain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-existence of any other abnormality which may by itself cause cognitive impairment, but judged not to be the cause of dementia, e.g. presence of relevant vascular disease in imaging</li> <li>• Time interval between the development of motor and cognitive symptoms not known</li> </ul>
<p><b>IV. Features suggesting other conditions or diseases as cause of mental impairment, which, when present make it impossible to reliably diagnose PD-D</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cognitive and behavioural symptoms appearing solely in the context of other conditions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acute confusion (due to systemic diseases or abnormalities; drug intoxication)</li> <li>- Major Depression according to DSM IV</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Features compatible with "Probable Vascular dementia" criteria</li> </ul>

Table 1-7 Criteria for diagnosis of probable and possible PDD (Emre *et al.*, 2007)

<p><b>Probable PD-D</b></p> <p>A. Core features: Both must be present</p> <p>B. Associated clinical features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Typical profile of cognitive deficits including impairment in at least two of the four core cognitive domains</li> <li>• The presence of at least one behavioural symptom (apathy, depressed or anxious mood, hallucinations, delusions, excessive daytime sleepiness) supports the diagnosis of Probable PDD</li> </ul> <p>C. None of the group III features present</p> <p>D. None of the group IV features present</p> <p><b>Possible PD-D</b></p> <p>A. Core features: Both must be present</p> <p>B. Associated clinical features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atypical profile of cognitive impairment in one or more domains, such as prominent or receptive-type (fluent) aphasia, or pure storage-failure type amnesia (memory does not improve with cueing or in recognition tasks) with preserved attention</li> <li>• Behavioural symptoms may or may not be present</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <p>C. One or more of the group III features present</p> <p>D. None of the group IV features present</p>
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Table 1-8 Algorithm for diagnosing PDD at Level I (Dubois *et al.*, 2007)

<p><b>1</b> A diagnosis of PD based on the QSBB criteria</p> <p><b>2</b> PD developed prior to the onset of dementia</p> <p><b>3</b> MMSE &lt; 26</p> <p><b>4</b> Cognitive deficits severe enough to impact daily living (based on caregiver interview or Pill Questionnaire)</p> <p><b>5</b> Impairment in <math>\geq 2</math> of the following tests:</p> <p>Months reversed or Serial 7's backward from 100 (<math>\geq 2</math> incorrect responses)</p> <p>Phonemic fluency (&lt;10 words in 60 sec) or Clock drawing</p> <p>MMSE Pentagons</p> <p>3-Word recall</p>
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### 1.6.8 Treatment of PDD

The initial management of PDD, after careful explanation of the diagnosis, starts with the withdrawal of potential contributing medications such as non-selective anticholinergic drugs. Rationalisation and simplification of PD treatment by the gradual removal of dopamine agonists, monoamine oxidase inhibitors then catechol-O-methyltransferase inhibitors should be done slowly to avoid worsening motor

symptoms. Co-existent depression, anxiety and RBD should be treated, although no randomised controlled trials in these non-motor symptoms in PDD specifically have been reported. If psychotic symptoms predominate, clozapine has been shown to be efficacious (Seppi *et al.*, 2011), although in practice quetiapine may be used more commonly due to the potential risk of agranulocytosis and subsequent monitoring required with clozapine.

Cholinesterase inhibitors (ChEIs) form the mainstay of treatment of PDD: A recent Cochrane review supports their use and showed a positive overall effect on global assessment, cognitive function, behavioural disturbance and activities of daily living (Rolinski *et al.*, 2012). The only two adequately powered randomised controlled trials of ChEIs in PDD are the EXPRESS (Emre *et al.*, 2004) and the EDON (Dubois *et al.*, 2012) study. The EXPRESS study enrolled 541 participants with mild to moderate PDD (mean MMSE 19/30), who were randomised to receive either rivastigmine (3-12mg) or placebo for 24 weeks. Those who received the active drug had a moderate improvement in the primary and secondary outcomes, with a mean improvement of 2.1 points (out of 70) in the Alzheimer's Disease Assessment Scale (ADAS-cog), compared with a 0.7 point worsening in the placebo group. Improvements in executive and attentional functions, behavioural symptoms and activities of daily living were significantly better in the treatment group. There were, however, marked variations within treatment responses. These improvements were maintained up to 48 weeks in an open-label extension of the study (Poewe *et al.*, 2006). The more recent EDON study recruited 550 PDD subjects (mean MMSE 21/30) and randomised to placebo or donepezil (5 or 10mg) for 24 weeks. Although no difference in the primary endpoint, the ADAS-cog, was seen in the intention-to-treat population by the pre-defined statistical model, when the treatment-by-country interaction term was removed from the model the improvements observed were similar to the EXPRESS study. Secondary end-points of global cognition using MMSE score and tests of executive and attention were significantly better in the donepezil group, although no difference was seen in activities of daily living or behavioural symptoms. Adverse events in both the EXPRESS and EDON study were mild, but largely compromised gastrointestinal side-effects and increased tremor: there is some evidence that these may be reduced with administration of a rivastigmine patch instead of capsules (Emre *et al.*, 2011).

Randomised controlled studies have investigated the effect of the partial NMDA-receptor antagonist memantine in PDD, with generally negative results (Aarsland *et al.*, 2009a; Leroi *et al.*, 2009; Emre *et al.*, 2010). Some improvement in cognition was noted and the drug was well tolerated, but the MDS Task Force have judged that as yet, there is insufficient evidence to recommend its use in this context (Seppi *et al.*, 2011).

Improving knowledge of the underlying pathogenesis of PDD should translate to identifying novel targets and developing new treatments for PDD. As the disease is heterogeneous, different patients may benefit from different treatments. The development of disease-modifying treatments that may halt or limit the progression of the pathology is vital to prevent the surge of dementia cases that is predicted in the future. In view of the overlap of pathology between PDD and AD, work in AD may have direct translational benefit to PDD: One example of this is anti-amyloid strategies. A recent study in triple transgenic mouse models of AD demonstrated that subcutaneous injections of apomorphine improved memory function and decreased intraneuronal A $\beta$  and phosphorylated tau levels compared with controls (Himeno *et al.*, 2011). It is therefore conceivable that apomorphine, which may inhibit A $\beta$  fibrillization (Lashuel *et al.*, 2002), could be used as a modifier of amyloid deposition in PDD. Other potential targets for treatment include prevention of  $\alpha$ -synuclein aggregation, trophic factors and anti-inflammatory strategies.

Lastly, in parallel with the involvement of the multidisciplinary team, the management of PDD should include a discussion of the cognitive and psychological benefits of exercise (Tanaka *et al.*, 2009; Cruise *et al.*, 2011) and cognitive training (Paris *et al.*, 2011). These certainly deserve consideration in future clinical trials, and are likely to be instituted in addition to therapeutic approaches.

### **1.7 Mild cognitive impairment in PD**

Mild cognitive impairment (MCI) is defined as a transitional state between normality and dementia, with little or no impairment in daily functioning and subjective or objective cognitive impairment (Petersen, 2004). Data from epidemiological studies demonstrates that 10-15% of subjects with MCI per year progress to dementia, largely of the Alzheimer's-type (Petersen *et al.*, 2009).

The concept of mild cognitive impairment in PD (PD-MCI) has received increasing attention recently. Although not analogous to the field of AD, where the significance of MCI may be better understood, it is now recognised that PD-MCI may represent a pre-dementia state and is associated with increased healthcare costs (Vossius *et al.*, 2011), poorer self-reported quality of life (Klepac *et al.*, 2008; Leroi *et al.*, 2012) plus subtle impairments in instrumental activities of daily living (Rosenthal *et al.*, 2010; Leroi *et al.*, 2012).

### **1.7.1 Epidemiology of PD-MCI**

The prevalence of PD-MCI varies widely depending on the study population (community- or hospital-based, incident or prevalent cases, age and disease severity, use of controls), the neuropsychological tools used and the definition of MCI applied (Table 1-9). Not surprisingly, studies of incident, drug-naïve patients have demonstrated the lowest prevalence of PD-MCI (14.8 (Poletti *et al.*, 2012) and 18.9 % (Aarsland *et al.*, 2009b)), with longer disease duration such as the work from Janvin and colleagues (Janvin *et al.*, 2006) or retrospective studies (Sollinger *et al.*, 2010) producing higher figures (52.8% for both). However, the presence of PD-MCI was 57% in a longitudinal study of patients with relatively short disease duration (Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2007a). In an attempt to overcome methodological variation, Aarsland and colleagues performed a meta-analysis of over 1,000 patients encompassing eight centres in Europe and the USA (Aarsland *et al.*, 2010). A mean of 25.8% (95% CI, 23.5–28.2) were classified as PD-MCI, based on age- and education-corrected z scores of less than 1.5 SD below normative values in one or more cognitive domains, although significant variations were seen across the separate centres studied.

Table 1-9 Demographic and clinical features of studies in PD-MCI

Reference	PD	Control s	Mean age PD	Disease duration (years)	Type of study	Countr y of origin	MCI definition	Cognitive domains assessed	%MCI	Cognitive profile	Other comments
<b>1. (Pai and Chan, 2001)</b>	102	0	68	NA	Cross-sectional ; hospital clinic; prevalent cases	Taiwan	<1.5 SD below age- and educationally-matched groups; Cognitive Ability Screening Instrument (CASI) used (max score 100)	Remote memory, recent memory, attention, mental manipulation, orientation, abstract thinking, language, drawing, & verbal fluency	38.2	Recent memory, verbal fluency, abstract thinking, & orientation all impaired to a high degree	1. Higher educational level did not protect against cognitive decline 2. CASI has not been validated in PD
<b>2.(Foltnie et al., 2004)</b>	159	0	70.6	NA Incident	Cross-sectional ; community; incident	UK	<1 SD below normative values for PRM and TOL	Temporal lobe plus frontostriatal impairment tested with PRM and TOL, respectively; MMSE also assessed	30.1*	9.6% fronto-striatal impairment; 8.2% temporal lobe deficit; 11% global deficits*	*1.Note 159 patients but 13 had MMSE<24; in total 36% therefore had some cognitive impairment 2. Patients with global or frontal impairments were significantly older, had higher UPDRS motor scores, & lower premorbid IQs than CN
<b>3.(Muslimovic et al., 2005)</b>	115	70	66.2	1.6	Cross-sectional ; hospital clinic; early PD	Netherlands	<2 SD below mean score of matched controls in ≥3 neuropsychological tests	Psychomotor speed, attention, language, memory, executive functions, & visuospatial/constr active (28 tests administered)	23.5 (4.3 control group)	Attention, executive & memory function most impaired cf controls	1. Age at disease onset independent predictor of cognitive ↓ 2. Impaired were older, male, had later disease onset, ↑ disease severity, ↑depression scores, & more severe axial & speech symptoms
<b>4.(Janvin et</b>	72	38	71.0	aMCI	Longitudi	Norway	≤1.5 SD below	Short-time	52.8	naMCI-sd	1. 62% MCI demented at 4

<b>al., 2006)</b>				10.6; naMCI-sd 11.4; multiple domains 11.6; CN 12.2	nal; community; prevalent cases		mean score of controls in 1, 2 or 3 neuropsychological tests; DRS and MMSE also used	visual memory (BVRT), visuospatial (JLO) & attention/executive (SWT) domains		44.7%, multiple domains slightly impaired 39.7%, amnesic 15.8%	years of 20% cognitively normal (OR 4.8; 95% CI 1.58–14.8) 2. Single domain nonamnesic MCI only associated with development dementia (OR 8.3; 95% CI 1.8 –37.5)
<b>5.(Caviness et al., 2007)</b>	86	0	CN	CN 5.4; MCI 75.2; PDD 74.6; PDD 79.9	Cross-sectional; prevalent cases	USA	≤1.5 SD below age corrected mean score consistently in 1 of 5 cognitive domains, plus subjective memory complaint	Frontal/executive (Stroop, TMT A&B), amnesic (RAVLT), visuospatial (CDT, JLO), attention (WAIS III forward and backwards) & language (COWA, category fluency)	20.9 (25.3 non-demented PDs)	sdMCI-frontal/executive 39%; naMCI-md 22%; aMCI-sd 22%; aMCI-md 11%; sdMCI-language 6%	Language dysfunction rarely seen; domains of visuospatial and attention did not reach threshold of dysfunction in PD-MCI group
<b>6.(Williams-Gray et al., 2007a)</b>	126	0	NA	NA ('3.5 years' for whole cohort)	Longitudinal; community	UK	<1 SD below matched normative values	Frontal (TOL, SRM, phonemic fluency), temporal (PRM, semantic fluency) & parietal function (pentagon copying)	57	NA	Predictors of cognitive decline independent of age were non-tremor dominant phenotype, impaired semantic fluency & impaired pentagon copying
<b>7.(Kim et al., 2009)</b>	141	0	CN	CN 3.6; MCI 57; MCI 64	Cross-sectional	Korea	<1.5 SD below the mean score for the age- and education-matched control group in ≥1 of 5 cognitive domains tested	Attention (forward digit span); language (BNT); visuospatial (RCFT); memory (SVLT) & executive function (phonemic word association test)	40.4	aMCI-sd 25.9%; sd language 12.3%; sd visuospatial 10.5%; sd executive 3.5%; md 47.4%	Age was significant predictor of all subtypes of MCI; domain most influenced by age was executive function
<b>8.(Elgh et al., 2009)</b>	86	30	68.1	CN 2.1; MCI 1.4	Cross-sectional	Sweden	<1.5 SD below control means	Episodic memory; working memory;	30	30% had deficits in ≥1	1. Education was the only independent significant

								; newly diagnosed; drug naive	(matched for age/sex/educational level if possible) for >50% of single test results within a domain	visuospatial function; verbal fluency; naming and executive function		domain, 16% deficits in ≥2 domains	predictor of severe cognitive impairment 2. Included 5 patients in 'PD' group with normal DaT
<b>9.(Mamikonyan et al., 2009)</b>	106	0	64.6	6.5	Cross-sectional	USA	≤1.5 SD below normative means on ≥2 tests (for memory and attention) or a single test (attention)		Memory (HVLT-R – 3 components), executive function (Stroop, semantic fluency) and attention (digit span)	29.2	17.9% sd (attention 8.5, memory 5.7, executive 3.8%); 11.3% md	Predictors of MCI were ↑age, ↑Hoehn & Yahr stage, ↑UPDRS motor score, anti-anxiety medication use and a trend towards ↑ESS score	
<b>10.(Aarsland et al., 2009b)</b>	196	171	67.7	2.3	Cross-sectional; incident; drug naive	Norway	<1.5 SD below mean for corrected z score for at least one of the cognitive domains		Verbal memory (CVLT-II); visuospatial (VOSP silhouettes); attentional/executive (serial 7's, Stroop, semantic fluency)	18.9	62.2% of MCI group had naMCI-sd; 24.3% aMCI-sd; 10.8% aMCI-md & 2.7% naMCI-md	1.The largest effect size was found for verbal memory 2.No clinical or demographic differences found between those with PD-MCI cf PD-CN	
<b>11.(Sollinger et al., 2010)</b>	72	0	CN 63.7; MCI 66.0	CN 5.8; MCI 8.7	Retro-spective record review	USA	Deficits in ≥2 tests within a domain; plus subjective & objective cognitive impairment (strict cut-offs not used)		Visuospatial (JLO, pentagons); language (BNT, phonemic & semantic fluency); attention (digits forwards, TMT A); executive (TMT B, 'WORLD' backwards) & memory (CERAD word list or HVLT-R)	52.8	naMCI-sd 36.8%, aMCI-sd 23.7%, aMCI-md 23.7% & naMCI-md 15.8% (memory>executive>visuospatial>language>attention deficits)	Those with MCI had ↑duration of PD and ↑PIGD subscale scores	
<b>12.(Aarsland</b>	1,34	0	NA	NA	Meta-	8	<1.5 SD below		Attention/	25.8	11.3% naMCI-	MCI associated with ↑age	

<i>et al., 2010)</i>	6				analysis	centres	mean for corrected z score on ≥ 1 cognitive domain	executive; visuospatial; memory (variety of tests used)		sd; 8.9% aMCI-sd; 4.8% aMCI-md & 1.3% naMCI-md. Memory (13.3%)>visuospatial (11%)>attention/executive dysfunction (10.1%)	at assessment & at disease onset, male gender, depression, more severe motor symptoms, and advanced disease stage
<b>13.(Poletti et al., 2012)</b>	121	100	66.6	1.2	Cross-sectional; early drug naive	Italy	<1.5 SD scores in ≥ 2 tests	Memory (RAVLT, Rey Figure Recall); language (BNT, semantic & phonemic fluency); executive (Stroop, FAB, TMT A&B, digit span, Corsi test, MCST, CPM 47); praxis (Rey figure copy) & visuospatial function (JLO)	14.8 (control group 7)	5% naMCI-md; 4.1% naMCI-sd; 4.1% aMCI-md & 1.7% aMCI-sd	1.Bradykinesia, axial impairment & absence of tremor associated with ↑ risk of MCI 2.PIGD patients had higher proportion of MCI than TD (23.2 v 6.3%)
<b>14.(McColgan et al., 2012)</b>	132	0	NA	1.1	Incident; community	UK	<1 SD in ≥2 tests plus subjective or objective decline	NA (included ACE-R, TOL, PRM, SRM, PAL, semantic & phonemic fluency)	22	NA	1.ACE-R good screening test of MCI (score <89) 2.MCI older & less educated than CN
<b>15.(Yu et al., 2012)</b>	94	84	61.6	4.0	Cross-sectional; early; mild disease	Taiwan	<1.5 SD in ≥1 cognitive domain	Executive; category fluency; memory function; psychomotor speed; visuospatial; attention; language	46.8 (PDD 9.6)	naMCI-sd 25.5%; aMCI-md 7.4%; naMCI-md 7.4%; aMCI-sd 6.4%	1.Executive most common domain affected (29.5%), then visuospatial then memory (15.9 & 13.6%). 2.MCST greatest effect size of cognitive tests

PRM pattern recognition memory; SRM spatial recognition memory; TOL tower of London task; PAL paired associates learning; BVRT Benton visual retention test; JLO judgement of line orientation test; SWT Stroop word test; TMT Trails making test; RAVLT Rey auditory verbal learning test; CDT clock drawing test; WAIS Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale; COWA controlled oral word association; BNT Boston naming test; RCFT Rey Complex Figure Test; SVLT Seoul Verbal Learning Test; HVLTR Hopkins verbal learning test-revised; CVLT-2 California verbal learning test 2; VOSP visual object and space perception battery; FAB frontal assessment battery; MCST modified card sorting test; CPM 47 Raven coloured progressive matrices; ACE-R Addenbrooke's Cognitive Examination-Revised; na amnesic; a amnesic; sd single domain; md multiple domain; CN cognitively normal; ESS Epworth sleepiness scale; PIGD postural instability gait difficulty; TD tremor dominant

Prior to 2012, there were no consensus criteria for the diagnosis of PD-MCI. Of the 15 studies in Table 1-9, ten used neuropsychological test scores of less than 1.5 standard deviations (SD) below control values or normative means, three used a cut-off of 1 SD (all three studies by the same group), one used 2 SD and the last used no strict cut-off. This explains in part the variation in frequencies of MCI reported. As per the definition, 16% and 2.5% of subjects will fall below 1 and 2 SD of the mean, respectively, of a normally distributed test, and hence a less stringent cut-off could lead to a higher likelihood of false positive MCI cases. This was succinctly demonstrated by researchers in New Zealand, who evaluated 143 PD participants and 50 matched controls on 20 neuropsychological measures (Dalrymple-Alford *et al.*, 2011). The prevalence of PD-MCI was 14% when a cut-off of two test scores within one domain less than 2 SDs below normative values was used, but increased to 89% when one score less than 1 SD was used. The authors recommended that two scores less than 1.5 SD either within a single domain or in two separate domains should be used as criteria for PD-MCI (Dalrymple-Alford *et al.*, 2011). Variations are also attributable to whether subjective cognitive impairment was included as part of the diagnostic criteria; there is however, evidence that this may not be a reliable discriminator of MCI, with subjective memory complaints commonly reported in those who are cognitively normal (PD-CN) and under-reported in those with impairments (Caviness *et al.*, 2007). In addition, the differences in frequencies of MCI may be due to the number of neuropsychological tests used by study participants, with larger numbers of tests increasing the probability of false-positives. This can be avoided to some extent by defining MCI using impairment in more than one test, or standardising impairments within tests within separate cognitive domains.

### **1.7.2 Profile of cognitive impairment in MCI**

As different neuropsychological tests cannot be fully separated on their neuroanatomical basis, it can be difficult to classify cognitive deficits based on impairments in each test, and therefore discrepancies are seen in the cognitive deficits reported in PD-MCI. Furthermore, researchers' interpretations can mean that tests may be categorised in different domains, which affects study analysis. For example, semantic fluency has been categorised as a test of executive (Aarsland *et al.*, 2009b; Mamikonyan *et al.*, 2009) and language function (Sollinger *et al.*, 2010; Poletti *et al.*,

2012). These differences and the cognitive heterogeneity of PD mean that it is difficult to generalise findings to the PD-MCI population overall. However, a significant number of studies have found that nonamnestic single-domain MCI (naMCI-sd) is the most common subtype (Janvin *et al.*, 2006; Caviness *et al.*, 2007; Aarsland *et al.*, 2009b; Mamikonyan *et al.*, 2009; Aarsland *et al.*, 2010; Sollinger *et al.*, 2010; Goldman *et al.*, 2012a; Yu *et al.*, 2012). This is in contrast to the general population, where amnestic MCI is the most common subtype.

Early studies, largely from researchers in Cambridge, in cognitively impaired but non-demented PD participants focussed on a fronto-striatal dysexecutive syndrome that was driven by dopaminergic deficits, but which may also be precipitated by medications due to dopamine 'overdosing' in the caudate nucleus and ventral striatum (Kehagia *et al.*, 2010). Prominent frontal/executive deficits have been found in a number of studies in PD-MCI (Foltynie *et al.*, 2004; Muslimovic *et al.*, 2005; Caviness *et al.*, 2007; Mamikonyan *et al.*, 2009; Yu *et al.*, 2012). There is evidence that these deficits may impact on other neuropsychological domains, with one study demonstrating that executive deficits explained a significant proportion of memory deficits (Bronnick *et al.*, 2011). Some studies have suggested that executive dysfunction may predict cognitive decline (Levy *et al.*, 2002a; Woods and Troster, 2003; Janvin *et al.*, 2005); however, findings from a larger, less heterogeneous and well-characterised cohort in the UK established that fronto-striatal deficits at baseline were associated with a better prognosis and did not increase the likelihood of progression to dementia (Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2007a; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2009a). Mnemonic deficits (in both retrieval and encoding) were prominent findings for a number of groups and signifies an important aspect of early cognitive dysfunction (Aarsland *et al.*, 2009b; Elgh *et al.*, 2009; Kim *et al.*, 2009; Aarsland *et al.*, 2010; Sollinger *et al.*, 2010). Amnestic impairments were present even after controlling for attention/executive dysfunction (Aarsland *et al.*, 2010). There is considerable heterogeneity within the memory deficits in PD, which have traditionally been thought to comprise deficits in retrieval; that is, problems with recall of learned information but with sparing of encoding, storage and recognition (Poletti *et al.*, 2011). However, recent studies indicate that there is diversity in memory profiles affected, which include encoding and retention in addition to retrieval (Weintraub *et al.*, 2004a; Whittington *et al.*, 2006; Bronnick *et al.*, 2011). Other domains affected in PD-MCI are psychomotor speed,

attention and visuospatial function (Muslimovic *et al.*, 2005; Mamikonyan *et al.*, 2009; Aarsland *et al.*, 2010; Aarsland *et al.*, 2011; Barone *et al.*, 2011; Goldman *et al.*, 2012a), with language function less likely to be affected (Caviness *et al.*, 2007).

Therefore, within PD-MCI there are substantial variations in the cognitive construct. Deficits are present in early disease, even in *de novo* patients, and the differences seen may represent differing underlying pathological mechanisms.

### **1.7.3 Risk factors and course**

As discussed above, the heterogeneity of PD-MCI suggests that cognitive correlates may not be generalizable to the whole population. Nevertheless, increased age (Foltnie *et al.*, 2004; Muslimovic *et al.*, 2005; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2007a; Kim *et al.*, 2009; Mamikonyan *et al.*, 2009; Aarsland *et al.*, 2010; McColgan *et al.*, 2012), motor disease severity (Foltnie *et al.*, 2004; Muslimovic *et al.*, 2005; Mamikonyan *et al.*, 2009; Aarsland *et al.*, 2010), non-tremor-dominant motor phenotype (Muslimovic *et al.*, 2005; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2007a; Sollinger *et al.*, 2010; Poletti *et al.*, 2012) and lower educational levels (Foltnie *et al.*, 2004; Elgh *et al.*, 2009; McColgan *et al.*, 2012) all seem to be robustly associated with MCI risk. Other possible associations include presence of depression (Muslimovic *et al.*, 2005; Aarsland *et al.*, 2010), male gender (Aarsland *et al.*, 2010) and anti-anxiety medication use (Mamikonyan *et al.*, 2009). In addition, one recent study examined the predictors of separate MCI subtypes in PD (Goldman *et al.*, 2012a). In keeping with previous studies, naMCI-sd was the most common subtype in 128 PD-MCI participants, but within the naMCI-md participants, significantly greater scores on axial functioning/gait subset of the Unified PD Rating Scale (UPDRS) motor score were observed, compared with the aMCI-sd subtype (Goldman *et al.*, 2012a). The authors postulated that non-dopaminergic deficits may link these specific motor and cognitive phenotypes.

To date, only three studies have published data on longitudinal outcomes in PD-MCI. Janvin and colleagues studied 72 non-demented PD participants with a mean age at baseline of 71 years and a disease duration of between 10 and 12 years, of whom 59 completed assessments four years later (Janvin *et al.*, 2006). Presence of MCI at baseline assessment was significantly associated with cognitive decline at follow-up, with 62% of those with PD-MCI versus 20% of those who were cognitively normal developing dementia. After controlling for age, sex, disease stage and education in a

logistic regression model, MCI at baseline was strongly associated with development of dementia (odds ratio 5.1; 95% CI, 1.51–16.24). The only subtype that was associated with later dementia was naMCI-sd (odds ratio 8.3; 95% CI, 1.8–37.5); however, the small numbers within the subgroups means that definitive conclusions cannot be drawn.

The CamPaIGN cohort is another longitudinal study which has explored the evolution of cognitive dysfunction (Foltynie *et al.*, 2004; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2007a; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2009a). Although MCI was not studied specifically, over a mean of 5.2 years, 17% of incident PD cases developed PDD, with increasing age, impairments in semantic fluency and visuospatial function and *MAPT* H1/H1 genotype all significantly associated with a more rapid cognitive decline (Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2007a; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2009a). *COMT* genotype and impairments in frontally-based tasks were not associated with deteriorating cognition, lending support to the hypothesis that more posteriorly based cognitive deficits increase the risk of subsequent decline due to a more posterior deposition of Lewy bodies, combined with the ageing process plus cholinergic dysfunction. Most recently, follow-up of MCI cases from the ParkWest Study (Aarsland *et al.*, 2009b) demonstrated that a diagnosis of MCI vs. non-MCI at baseline visit had a relative risk for dementia of 39.2 at three years (Pedersen *et al.*, 2013). 27% of those with MCI progressed to dementia over follow-up compared to 0.7% of those who were cognitively normal, although it should be noted that 21.6% of those with MCI reverted to normal cognition.

#### **1.7.4 Pathogenesis**

The exact underlying pathophysiology of PD-MCI remains the subject of debate, largely due to the scarcity of neuropathological data. Structural and functional imaging, neurophysiological techniques and CSF analysis provides some *in vivo* evidence of the mechanisms underlying MCI. Only one neuropathological study in well-characterised PD-MCI in which participants were followed prospectively has been reported (Adler *et al.*, 2010). Eight cases were examined, of who four were classified as amnesic and four as nonamnesic MCI. The neuropathology was heterogeneous, with five cases exhibiting limbic or neocortical Lewy body (LB) pathology and the remainder predominantly consisting of brainstem LB pathology. Diffuse amyloid plaques were seen in the majority of cases (Adler and Beach, 2010), with two of the amnesic MCI

subgroup meeting neuropathological criteria for AD. Cerebrovascular pathology was frequently seen. In correspondence relating to this study, Kurt Jellinger reported on a further eight cases of MCI, where four cases were defined as aMCI-sd, three were naMCI-sd and one MCI multiple-domains (Jellinger, 2010b). Again the neuropathology was heterogeneous, with most patients having limbic or neocortical LB deposition, and some displaying Alzheimer-type pathology. These studies provide evidence that the neuropathology underlying PD-MCI may be similar to, but less advanced than, that found in PDD.

Changes seen in structural and functional imaging provide further evidence of the possible underlying pathogenesis of PD-MCI. Extensive grey matter loss on structural magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a consistent finding in PDD (Burton *et al.*, 2004; Melzer *et al.*, 2012); in MCI, a more selective loss has been observed (Bruck *et al.*, 2004; Beyer *et al.*, 2007; Song *et al.*, 2011; Melzer *et al.*, 2012). Atrophy was noted in frontal (Beyer *et al.*, 2007; Song *et al.*, 2011; Melzer *et al.*, 2012), prefrontal (Bruck *et al.*, 2004; Song *et al.*, 2011; Weintraub *et al.*, 2011), temporal (Beyer *et al.*, 2007; Melzer *et al.*, 2012), hippocampal (Bruck *et al.*, 2004; Weintraub *et al.*, 2011; Melzer *et al.*, 2012), amygdala (Melzer *et al.*, 2012), parietal (Weintraub *et al.*, 2011) and occipital (Song *et al.*, 2011; Weintraub *et al.*, 2011) regions, and may be attributable to neuronal and synaptic loss from LB and/or AD-type pathology. It has been postulated that hippocampal atrophy may be a biomarker of early cognitive decline in PD (Weintraub *et al.*, 2011), with longitudinal follow-up indicating that hippocampal plus parieto-temporal atrophy predict cognitive impairment (Weintraub *et al.*, 2012). However, a study in *de novo* incident PD cases did not demonstrate significant grey matter loss, perhaps due to the shorter disease duration, arguing for functional neurotransmitter loss rather than structural grey matter loss as a pathological basis for MCI (Dalaker *et al.*, 2010).

Functional imaging using 18F-fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) PET has demonstrated metabolic abnormalities associated with PD-MCI, with metabolic reductions demonstrated in frontal and parietal association areas plus relative increases in the cerebellar vermis and dentate nuclei (Huang *et al.*, 2007). This pattern predicted performance in memory and visuospatial domains, with a more recent PET study by the same authors revealing a difference in parietal and prefrontal metabolism in those

with multiple-domain MCI compared to PD-CN participants (Huang *et al.*, 2008). Other studies have demonstrated cerebral hypometabolism in posterior cortical regions in participants with PD-MCI compared to those with PD and normal cognition (Hosokai *et al.*, 2009; Pappata *et al.*, 2011). Taken together, neurotransmitter deficits in PD-MCI may explain the PET findings, with dopaminergic dysfunction accounting for frontal hypometabolism and subcortical cholinergic loss leading to posterior changes. The former presupposition is strengthened by a functional imaging study which used functional MRI (fMRI) and dopamine transporter binding SPECT scanning to assess brain responses during a working memory task in early drug naïve PD-MCI participants (Ekman *et al.*, 2012). Compared to PD-CN subjects, those with PD-MCI had markedly reduced recruitment of the right caudate nucleus, bilateral anterior cingulate cortex and to a lesser extent the right dorsolateral prefrontal cortex. These findings correlated with working memory function, and lend support to dopaminergic dysfunction as a basis for the functional changes seen.

Other potential mechanisms that may underpin the pathophysiology of MCI in PD include cholinergic dysfunction and abnormal processing of the amyloid precursor protein. Cholinergic loss is an established feature of PDD (Tiraboschi *et al.*, 2000; Bohnen *et al.*, 2003) and may contribute to PD-MCI: Evidence from a PET study demonstrating a reduction in nicotinic ACh receptors in the midbrain, pons, and cerebellum in PD subjects with MCI support this hypothesis (Meyer *et al.*, 2009). In addition, short latency afferent inhibition (SAI) is abnormal in PD-MCI (Yarnall *et al.*, 2013). SAI is a non-invasive neurophysiological technique that relies on cholinergic excitability in the cerebral cortex, and hence can be used as a proxy measure of cholinergic activity. This theory of a cholinergic basis to MCI has biological plausibility in terms of the Braak hypothesis: at Braak Stage 3, where the motor disease may become apparent, there is already destruction of the basal forebrain cholinergic nuclei and consequent ACh loss. Lastly, abnormal A $\beta$  deposition and fibrillization due to altered amyloid precursor processing may contribute to PD-MCI. Reduced CSF levels of A $\beta$ 42, a marker of amyloid deposition and aggregation, were found in those with PD and who were cognitively impaired but not demented (Montine *et al.*, 2010). Reduced CSF A $\beta$ 42, 40 and 38 levels also correlated with memory function in early *de novo* PD participants (Alves *et al.*, 2010). However, detection of amyloid- $\beta$  deposition using PET imaging with Pittsburgh Compound B (PiB) in PD-MCI has been less convincing. In two

small cross-sectional studies, PiB retention did not differ between groups with PD and normal cognition, PD-MCI or PDD (Foster *et al.*, 2010; Gomperts *et al.*, 2012), although in more recent longitudinal work, amyloid burden at baseline predicted cognitive decline during follow-up (Gomperts *et al.*, 2013). In a further cross-sectional study of 40 PD participants with risk factors for the development of dementia (30 defined as MCI), cortical PiB binding was below that expected for older individuals and for those at risk of AD; PiB retention was, however, correlated with global cognitive function and a tests of executive function (Petrou *et al.*, 2012).

In conclusion, the pathogenesis of PD-MCI is heterogeneous and may differ between individuals and between subtypes. Lewy body deposition, amyloid deposition and neurotransmitter deficits are all likely to contribute, although to a lesser degree than those changes seen in PDD. Further *in vivo* and post-mortem studies will facilitate future work.

#### **1.7.5 Definition of PD-MCI**

Due to the increasing research in PD-MCI and a lack of standardization in defining the disorder, the Movement Disorder Society (MDS) commissioned a Task Force to evaluate the literature (Litvan *et al.*, 2011) and propose criteria (Litvan *et al.*, 2012) for the diagnosis of PD-MCI. The criteria are shown in Table 1-10. They require the diagnosis of PD, subjective or objective cognitive decline and the demonstration of cognitive deficits that do not interfere with functional independence. The Task Force defined both a level I category, for an abbreviated assessment, and a more comprehensive level II assessment for more diagnostic certainty and for use in a research setting. Strict cut-offs were not defined, with impairment in performance in neuropsychological tests of 1 to 2 SDs. The Task Force also gave examples of global cognitive scales and neuropsychological tests that could be used. With time these criteria may be refined further, although it should be noted that PD-MCI is a contentious term and may not necessarily be useful in terms of prognostication. Reasons to contend this include the fact that MCI was extrapolated from the AD literature, and this may not be analogous to PD; that there is considerable heterogeneity in PD-MCI; and that PD-MCI may represent a fluid state, with some returning to normal cognition over time in addition to converting to dementia.

Table 1-10 Diagnostic criteria for PD-MCI

<p><b>I. Inclusion criteria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diagnosis of PD</li> <li>• Cognitive decline, in context of established PD, reported by patient/carer/treating physician</li> <li>• Cognitive deficits on either formal neuropsychological testing or a scale global cognitive abilities</li> <li>• Cognitive deficits not severe enough to interfere with functional independence, although subtle impairments may be present</li> </ul>
<p><b>II. Exclusion criteria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PDD</li> <li>• Other primary explanation for cognitive impairment (e.g. stroke, major depression, delirium)</li> <li>• Other PD-associated comorbid conditions (e.g. motor impairment, severe anxiety, psychosis) that may significantly influence cognitive testing</li> </ul>
<p><b>III. Specific guidelines for PD-MCI level I and level II categories</b></p> <p><b>A. Level I (abbreviated assessment)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impairment on a scale of global cognitive abilities validated for use in PD (MoCA, SCOPA-COG, PD CRS, MDRS)* <i>or</i></li> <li>• Impairment on at least two tests, when a limited battery of neuropsychological tests is performed</li> </ul> <p><b>B. Level II (comprehensive assessment)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neuropsychological testing that includes 2 tests within each of the 5 cognitive domains (<i>attention and working memory, executive, language, memory, and visuospatial</i>)</li> <li>• Impairment on ≥ 2 neuropsychological tests (either 2 impaired tests in 1 cognitive domain or 1 impaired test in 2 different cognitive domains)</li> <li>• Impairment on neuropsychological tests may be demonstrated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Performance approximately 1 to 2 SDs below appropriate norms or</li> <li>○ Significant decline demonstrated on serial cognitive testing or</li> <li>○ Significant decline from estimated premorbid levels</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>IV. Subtype classification for PD-MCI (optional, requires two tests for each of the five cognitive domains assessed)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PD-MCI single-domain—abnormalities on two tests within a single cognitive domain (specify the domain), with other domains unimpaired <i>or</i></li> <li>- PD-MCI multiple-domain—abnormalities on at least one test in two or more cognitive domains (specify the domains)</li> </ul>

\*MoCA Montreal Cognitive Assessment; SCOPA-COG Scales for Outcomes of Parkinson's disease Cognition; PD CRS PD Cognitive Rating Scale; MDRS Mattis Dementia Rating Scale

### 1.7.6 Treatment

To date, there have been no randomised controlled trials in PD-MCI. A small study of Atomoxetine, a selective norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor, produced an improvement in global cognition in non-demented PD patients, although cognition was only a secondary outcome measure (Weintraub *et al.*, 2010). Trials of cholinesterase

inhibitors in PD-MCI and mild dementia, such as the MUSTARDD-PD study ([www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov): NCT01014858), are on-going and should inform future practice. The continued investigation of the pathogenesis underlying PD-MCI is important for the development of new therapeutic targets, including the reduction of insoluble amyloid- $\beta$  accumulation or the inhibition of oligomeric  $\alpha$ -synuclein accumulation. Finally, non-pharmacological interventions such as cognitive intervention programmes (Jean *et al.*, 2010; Naismith *et al.*, 2013) or physical exercise should be investigated further (Hindle *et al.*, 2013).

### **1.8 Study summary, objectives and hypotheses**

In summary, PD is a complex neurodegenerative disorder with impairments of movement, gait, mood and cognition. The incidence of dementia is six times higher than that expected in controls, with a cumulative prevalence approaching 80% in community studies. Moreover, up to a quarter of people with Parkinson's disease will have subtle cognitive deficits (mild cognitive impairment) at diagnosis. The cognitive profile of PDD differs from that of AD, with deficits in attention being one of the strongest predictors of PDD. Overall, executive function and visuospatial deficits are more prominent in PDD, but it is not known which pattern of deficit is associated with a more rapid rate of cognitive decline. Although the pathophysiology underlying these deficits is likely to be varied, deposition of amyloid within the cortex and cholinergic loss throughout the frontal cortex are likely to contribute. CSF may be a potential biomarker for cognitive decline in PD, with previous studies indicating that low levels of amyloid- $\beta$  1-42 are associated with memory impairment. A surrogate marker of cortical cholinergic status is short latency afferent inhibition, a simple neurophysiological technique that has been shown to be abnormal in AD and DLB, where cholinergic loss is a fundamental neurophysiological component.

#### **Aims and objectives:**

The overarching aim of this thesis was therefore to define and characterise cognitive subtypes early Parkinson's and to determine the interplay between putative markers of protein deposition and neurochemical dysfunction.

This aim was achieved through the following objectives:

- 1) To investigate cognition in early Parkinson's disease.
- 2) To investigate the relationship between amyloid- $\beta$  and cognition (including specific cognitive domains) in early Parkinson's disease.
- 3) To investigate the relationship between short latency afferent inhibition (SAI) and cognition in early Parkinson's disease.

**Hypotheses:**

1. Cognitive deficits will be frequently observed, even in a very early cohort of Parkinson's disease patients.
2. Low CSF amyloid- $\beta$  in early PD will be associated with cognitive decline.
3. Low CSF amyloid- $\beta$  in early PD will be associated with impaired mnemonic function, that is, a more "posterior" mediated function.
4. Abnormal short latency afferent inhibition (SAI) will be associated with low baseline CSF amyloid- $\beta$  levels, reflecting greater underlying cholinergic dysfunction and Alzheimer-related pathology.
5. Abnormal short latency afferent inhibition will correlate with cognitive impairment.
6. Abnormal SAI will be associated with more posteriorly mediated cognitive functions.
7. Executive dysfunction at baseline will not be associated with CSF or SAI abnormalities.

## **Chapter 2 Cognition in early Parkinson's disease – the ICICLE-PD study**

### **2.1 General ICICLE-PD Methodology**

The Incidence of Cognitive Impairment in Cohorts with Longitudinal Evaluation-PD (ICICLE-PD) study is a twin centre longitudinal observational study, the aim of which is to better understand the anatomical, biochemical and genotypic mechanisms underlying the evolution of PDD from disease onset. Through centres in Newcastle and Cambridge, participants are followed up every 18 months, where the diagnosis of PD is reassessed and further clinical, neuropsychological, imaging and laboratory measures are performed.

### **2.2 Baseline Assessment**

Between June 2009 and December 2011, we attempted to identify all newly diagnosed PD patients from outpatient clinics in Newcastle-upon-Tyne/Gateshead and Cambridgeshire, UK. A total of 166 primary care practices were identified and encouraged to refer patients with suspected parkinsonism. We also informed colleagues in secondary care and invited them to refer all patients with suspected parkinsonism. This group included neurologists (n=48), geriatricians (n=17), and Parkinson's disease nurse specialists (n=14). PD was diagnosed by a movement disorder specialist according to the UK Brain Bank criteria for idiopathic PD (Hughes *et al.*, 1992). Exclusion criteria comprised: Parkinsonism diagnosed prior to the onset of the study; insufficient working knowledge of English (defined as insufficient to perform the neuropsychological assessments or questionnaires in the opinion of the assessor); significant memory impairment at presentation (defined as MMSE score < 24), or meeting DSM IV (Association, 2000) or the MDS criteria for dementia (Emre *et al.*, 2007); subjects who did not have the capacity to give informed consent (as assessed by criteria laid out in the MHA code of practice, section 4-3); history consistent with DLB (McKeith *et al.*, 2005), atypical parkinsonian syndromes (including multiple system atrophy or progressive supranuclear palsy, diagnosed according to accepted criteria (Litvan *et al.*, 2003)) repeated strokes or stepwise progression of symptoms, leading to a diagnosis of 'vascular parkinsonism'; and, exposure to dopamine receptor blocking agents at the onset of symptoms.

To control for the effects of normal ageing and to generate normative values for cognitive tests, unrelated controls of similar age and sex to patients were recruited through local advertising (including primary care settings), word of mouth and community groups. Carers and spouses of patients with PD were not used as controls to limit bias; for example, sleep disruption or mood disorder in a patient could influence carer response. None of the controls had a history of major psychiatric disorders, cognitive impairment, stroke or a movement disorder, but were not pre-screened for memory problems to ensure that this was a representative sample. All control subjects underwent clinical and neuropsychological testing, and were given the option of participating in laboratory and MRI studies. Global cognitive scores in control participants were comparable to published age- and educationally-matched normative data for the MMSE (Crum *et al.*, 1993) and Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) (Dalrymple-Alford *et al.*, 2010).

The study was approved by the Newcastle and North Tyneside Research Ethics Committee and performed according to the Declaration of Helsinki, with all subjects providing written informed consent.

### **2.3 Clinical Assessment**

Clinical and demographic data collected comprised a detailed history of disease onset; disease duration; comorbidities; family history of neuropsychiatric disease; level of education and medication use. Clinical assessments were performed by trained examiners and included a standardised neurological assessment, the MDS-revised Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale (MDS UPDRS) (Goetz *et al.*, 2008b) and Hoehn and Yahr stage (Hoehn and Yahr, 1967). Depressive symptoms were assessed using the Geriatric Depression Scale-15 (GDS-15) score (Yesavage *et al.*, 1983) and functional status and well-being were measured by the Parkinson's disease Quality of Life Questionnaire (PDQ-39) (Peto *et al.*, 1995). Motor phenotype was calculated using the MDS-UPDRS revision (Goetz *et al.*, 2008b) of the method described by Jankovic (Stebbins *et al.*, 2013) whereby patients are categorised into tremor dominant (TD), postural instability with gait difficulty (PIGD), or indeterminate (ID) motor subtypes based on the ratio between mean tremor score versus and mean postural instability gait difficulty score. Ratios of  $\geq 1.15$  were classified as TD and  $\leq 0.90$  as PIGD (Stebbins

*et al.*, 2013). Levodopa equivalent daily dose (LEDD) was calculated for all dopaminergic medications (Tomlinson *et al.*, 2010). Participants underwent baseline assessments, with planned evaluation every 18 months until the end point of dementia (diagnosed according to the Movement Disorder Society criteria (Emre *et al.*, 2007)) or death.

## **2.4 Neuropsychological Assessment**

Global cognitive function was assessed with the MMSE (Folstein *et al.*, 1975) and Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) (Nasreddine *et al.*, 2005; Zadikoff *et al.*, 2008). Although traditionally used as a screening test for cognitive impairment in the wider population, the MMSE has not been validated in PD and problems such as accuracy, sensitivity (especially in early cognitive impairment) and “ceiling effect” have called into question its use (Hobson and Meara, 1999; Athey *et al.*, 2005; Zadikoff *et al.*, 2008; Nazem *et al.*, 2009). One study demonstrated that over half of those who were classified as “normal” cognition by MMSE were impaired on the MoCA (Nazem *et al.*, 2009). In addition, executive and visuospatial domains are poorly represented by the MMSE. Originally developed as a brief screening tool to detect mild cognitive impairment (MCI) as a precursor to AD with a score of less than 26/30 being predictive of MCI (Nasreddine *et al.*, 2005), the MoCA has been shown to be valuable in screening for both dementia and MCI in PD (Hoops *et al.*, 2009; Dalrymple-Alford *et al.*, 2010). At a score of <21/30, the MoCA has a 81% sensitivity, 95% specificity, negative predictive value of 92% and a positive predictive value of 87% for the diagnosis of PDD, with the corresponding figures for MCI at a score of <26/30 of 90, 75, 61 and 95%, respectively (Dalrymple-Alford *et al.*, 2010). Although other scales of global cognition, such as the Addenbrooke’s Cognitive Examination-Revised (ACE-R) are available and have shown to be useful screening tools for PD-MCI (McColgan *et al.*, 2012), the MoCA can be completed in 10 minutes and is one of the recommended global screening tools by the Movement Disorder Society Task Force on MCI (Litvan *et al.*, 2012).

Premorbid IQ was estimated with the National Adult Reading Test (NART) (Nelson and O’Connell, 1978). Where relevant, subjects were assessed ‘on’ dopaminergic medication, although due to the short disease duration, motor and cognitive fluctuations were not problematic in this study. Participants were asked to refrain

from drinking caffeine or smoking for one hour prior to appointments, to reduce the risk of confounding due to stimulant effects and to standardise neuropsychological testing.

Five cognitive domains were assessed as part of the neuropsychological battery. Attention and working memory were measured using the Cognitive Drug Research (CDR) computerised battery (Ballard *et al.*, 2002; Wesnes *et al.*, 2002). Scores of simple reaction time, choice reaction time and digit vigilance mean time (all in milliseconds (msec)) were summed to produce a Power of Attention (PoA) score, with a higher score indicating more severe impairment (Wesnes *et al.*, 2002) (Table 2-1). PoA has been used as both a primary and secondary outcome of attentional function in acetylcholinesterase inhibitor (AChE-I) studies in PDD and DLB (Wesnes *et al.*, 2002; Emre *et al.*, 2004; Wesnes *et al.*, 2005; Rowan *et al.*, 2007), and as a measure of attention when correlated with clinical characteristics (Taylor *et al.*, 2008; Allcock *et al.*, 2009). Digit vigilance accuracy was also evaluated as part of this domain, which was chosen due to its large effect size when compared with controls. Memory was assessed with Pattern Recognition Memory (PRM), Spatial Recognition Memory (SRM) [sensitive to impairment of temporal and frontal lobe function, respectively (Owen *et al.*, 1995b)] and Paired Associates Learning (PAL) from the computerised Cambridge Neuropsychological Test Automated Battery (CANTAB) (Sahakian *et al.*, 1988; Robbins *et al.*, 1994; Owen *et al.*, 1995a) (Table 2-1). As this battery requires touch screen testing, participants were initially screened for visual, motor and comprehensive deficits using a motor screening test (MOT). Paired associates learning is a visuospatial test of learning and memory that is sensitive to both temporal and frontal damage and has been shown to predict Alzheimer's disease with a high degree of accuracy (Swainson *et al.*, 2001; Blackwell *et al.*, 2004). Executive function was determined using the modified ('one touch') version (OTS) of the Tower Of London task from the CANTAB battery, a test of planning requiring working memory (Owen *et al.*, 1995a) that has been shown to activate fronto-parietal-caudate circuitry (Baker *et al.*, 1996; Cheesman *et al.*, 2005); phonemic fluency (words beginning with F, A and S in one minute) (Benton, 1968) and semantic fluency (animals in 90 seconds) (Goodglass, 1972), tests sensitive to fronto-striatal and fronto-parietal dysfunction (Miller, 1985). For phonemic fluency, Cambridge participants (n=61) only underwent testing of words

beginning with F, and this data was therefore combined with the Newcastle data to produce an aggregate score. In line with previous studies in PD assessing cognition using the CANTAB battery (Sahakian *et al.*, 1988; Lewis *et al.*, 2003; Foltynie *et al.*, 2004; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2007a; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2009a), scores of total number correct for PRM (maximum 24) and SRM (maximum 20) were used, with OTS assessed using the total number of problems solved on first attempt (maximum 20). For PAL, the parameters measured were stages completed (score 0-8), total number errors, total number of trials and mean trials to success. Previous studies using PAL have used a combination of these parameters. After discussion with the CANTAB team in Cambridge and after inspecting the distributions of the data, mean trials to success was included, with a higher score indicating a greater degree of impairment. The pentagon copying item within the MMSE was graded using a modified 0-2 rating scale (Ala *et al.*, 2001; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2007a) as a measure of visuospatial function. Language domain was assessed using the naming (0-3) and sentence (0-2) subsets of the MoCA test.

Table 2-1 Computerised battery tests

Cognitive test	Description	Measure
<b>CDR</b>		
<b>Simple reaction time (SRT)</b>	Subject instructed to press 'YES' button as quickly as possible every time the word 'yes' appeared on computer screen. 30 stimuli delivered at varying inter-stimulus intervals.	Response time (ms); response time variability (%)
<b>Choice reaction time (CRT)</b>	Either the word 'no' or the word 'yes' randomly appeared on screen, and the patient instructed to press the corresponding button as quickly as possible. 30 stimuli delivered at varying intervals.	Response time (ms); response time variability (%); % of accurate responses
<b>Digit vigilance</b>	A target digit was randomly selected and constantly displayed to the right of the screen. A series of digits was then presented in the centre of the screen at the rate of 150 per minute and the subject told to press the 'YES' button as quickly as possible every time the digit in the series matched the target digit.	Response time (ms); response time variability (%); % of accurate responses; number of errors
<b>CANTAB</b>		
<b>Pattern recognition memory (PRM)</b>	Subjects were initially shown a series of coloured patterns inside a box in the centre of the screen. In the next stage, pairs of patterns were shown in the centre, & the subject was asked to touch the pattern they had already seen during the initial phase.	Number correct (max 24); % correct; latency to correct (ms)
<b>Spatial recognition memory (SRM)</b>	In the 1 <sup>st</sup> phase, unfilled white squares were shown at different locations on the screen. During the 2 <sup>nd</sup> phase, 2 squares appeared simultaneously on the screen and the subject had to select the correct location had been used before in the 1st phase.	Number correct (max 20); % correct; latency to correct (ms)
<b>Paired associates learning (PAL)</b>	Initially 6 boxes were placed in different locations on the screen and were 'opened' one at a time, with 1 displaying a coloured pattern. The pattern then appeared in the screen centre, & the subject was asked to touch which box had contained the pattern. This was repeated with 2, 3 & up to 6 patterns. Finally the number of boxes was increased to 8 with 8 patterns to identify.	Stages completed (max 8); total errors; total trials; mean trials to success
<b>One touch stockings of Cambridge (OTS)</b>	2 sets of 3 stockings were displayed on the touch screen, with the subject asked to rearrange the balls in the bottom display to match the position in the top of the screen.	Problems solved on 1 <sup>st</sup> choice (max 20); mean choices to correct; latency to correct (ms)

MoCA was not performed on the first 24 participants as it was introduced slightly later in the study. A small number of subjects did not undergo all 11 neuropsychological

tests and were coded as missing data. For example, CDR could not be completed in two PD patients due to technical issues (Table 2-2).

Mild cognitive impairment was determined using the recently published Movement Disorder Society criteria (Litvan *et al.*, 2012). The ICICLE neuropsychological battery was devised prior to the publication of the MDS PD-MCI guidelines. Therefore, the visuospatial domain was not as well covered as we would have anticipated. Other domains were, however, well covered. Subjects were classified as level 1 MCI (abbreviated assessment, possible MCI) if they scored <26 on the MoCA. Level 2 criteria (comprehensive assessment) necessitated impairment on at least two neuropsychological tests, represented by either two impaired tests in one cognitive domain or one impaired test in two different domains. A test score was considered 'impaired' if it was 1, 1.5 or 2 standard deviations (SDs) below the mean score of the control subjects which was approximately normally distributed. For non-normally distributed data, even after transformation (pentagon, naming, language and digit vigilance scores), cut-offs were used that gave approximately the correct percentage of people impaired (according to the normal distribution) for that corresponding SD. For example, the mean plus 1 SD cut-off for naming was 2 or less as 14% of controls scored 0, 1 or 2. Subjects were further classified as single- or multiple-domain amnesic or nonamnesic according to the criteria.

Table 2-2 Missing cognitive data

	MoCA	MMSE	CDR	CANTAB	Verbal fluency	Pentagon	Language
<b>Control no. missing</b>	2	0	5	5	1	0	2
<b>Reason for missing data</b>	Missing data		Equipment failure (n=3), missing data (n=2)	Visual impairment (n=4), missing data (n=1)	Missing data		Missing data
<b>PD no. missing</b>	24	0	2	12	3	0	24
<b>Reason</b>	Introduced later in study		Equipment failure	Visual impairment (n=3), missing data (n=9)	Missing data		Introduced later in study

## 2.5 Statistical Analysis

Statistical analyses were performed with SPSS 19.0 (SPSS, Chicago, IL). Data were examined for normality with visual histograms and Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. Means and SDs for general characteristics and cognitive test scores were calculated. The primary statistical analysis consisted of descriptive statistics comparing those classified as MCI level 1 or level 2 with the PD-cognitively normal (CN) groups, and within MCI level 2, whether they met the criteria at 1, 1.5 or 2 SD below normative values. Means were compared using Student t-tests or ANOVA for normally distributed and Mann-Whitney or Kruskal-Wallis test for data that were non-normally distributed. Pearson correlation (parametric distributions) or Spearman's rank correlation (non-parametric) coefficients were calculated to assess the bivariate association between cognitive and clinical or biochemical parameters. A linear regression model was used to control for covariates including age and education; logistic regression was used for binary dependent variables. Collinearity diagnostics were inspected to test for multicollinearity, with an average variance inflation factor (VIF) greater than one considered problematic. The Durbin-Watson statistic was used to identify autocorrelation (values less than one or greater than three were a cause for concern). In all regression models, standardised residuals were inspected to ensure they were approximately normally distributed and between  $\pm 3.0$ . Cook's distances were used to check for cases exerting undue influence in any model. Mixed linear modelling was used with age as a covariate to compare neuropsychological tests between groups (controls versus PD participants). The effect size of each cognitive test was calculated using Glass's delta, by calculating the mean difference (mean cognitive test score of controls – mean cognitive test score of PD participants) divided by the SD. *A priori* correction for multiple comparisons was not made due to the exploratory nature of the investigation; if a parameter was significant, even if by chance, it was felt it merited further analysis (Rothman, 1990; Perneger, 1998; Feise, 2002). However, if multiple corrections were required for defining clinical significance, a Bonferroni correction was applied for multiple comparisons. Pearson Chi-square tests were used to compare between-group distribution of proportions, with Fisher's exact test used if the expected frequency in any group was < 5. For parametric tests, all p values reported are two-tailed. A p value of < 0.05 was deemed as significant.

## **2.6 Results – cognition in early Parkinson’s disease**

### **2.6.1 Baseline characteristics of study participants**

682 patients with parkinsonism were approached and, of these, 226 with idiopathic PD consented (Figure 2-1). Seven were subsequently excluded (one due to a diagnosis of dementia; one due to insufficient command of the English language; one due to vascular parkinsonism and four due to normal Dopamine Transporter scans (FP-CIT SPECT)). Those that declined to take part (n=312) were older than those who participated (71.5 vs. 65.9 years,  $p < 0.001$ , unpaired t-test). 101 age- and sex-matched controls were also recruited, with two excluded (one due to a diagnosis of essential tremor and one because of a glioblastoma multiforme incidentally found on MRI). Therefore, 219 PD subjects and 99 controls participated. With the exception of a statistically significant difference in disease duration (6.0 vs. 4.3 months) which was not clinically significant, PD participants from Newcastle and Cambridge were well-matched (Table 2-3). Baseline characteristics are shown in Table 2-4. In keeping with early PD, mean disease duration was less than six months (mean 5.5 months) with relatively mild motor disease (mean MDS UPDRS score 27.1) and 83% of participants were Hoehn and Yahr Stage 1 or 2. PD participants scored significantly lower on the MoCA and MMSE and higher on the GDS-15 than the controls, but there were no differences in the years of education. Control participants tended to be older, and although this did not reach statistical significance, age was included as a covariate in all analyses. Mean LEDD was 178 mg/day in PD subjects, with only 16.4% of participants being treatment naive. The most commonly medication prescribed was a dopamine agonist, and there was no significant difference in the number of PD participants versus controls who were taking antidepressants.

Figure 2-1 Flow diagram of PD participants and assessments

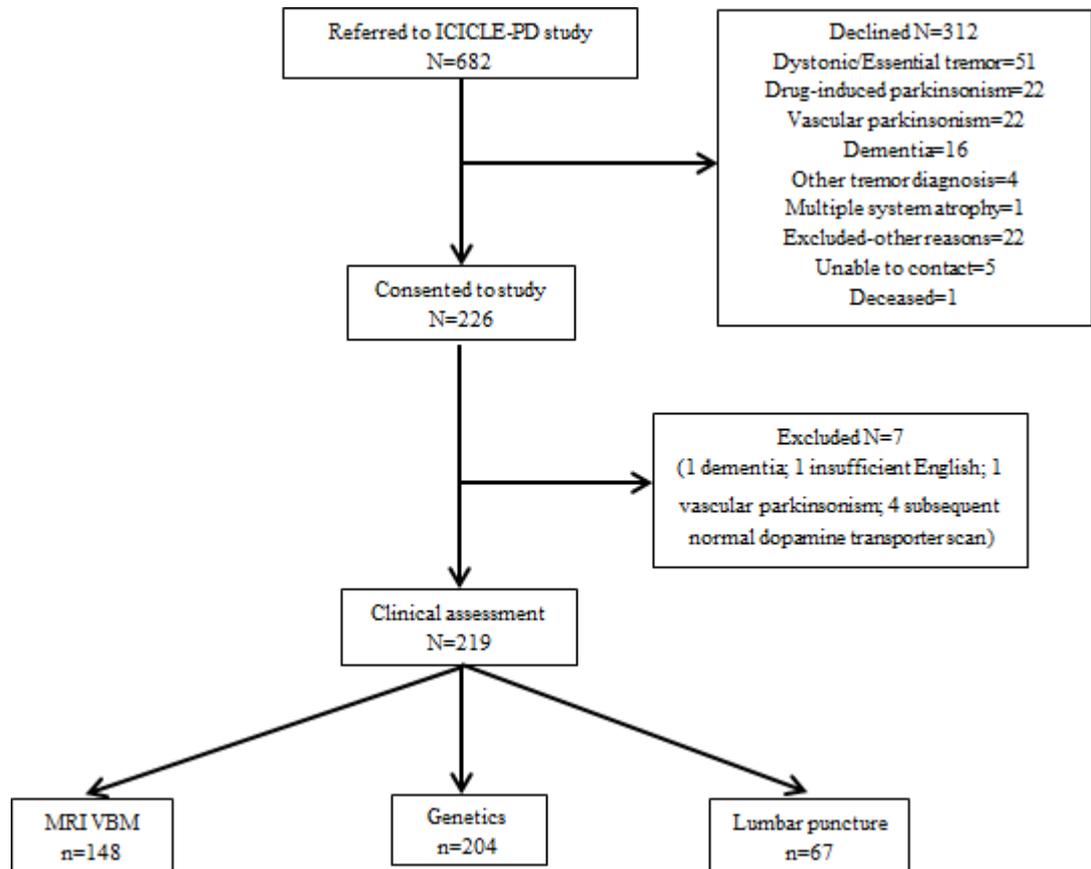


Table 2-3 Comparison of Newcastle and Cambridge PD participant demographics

Characteristic	Newcastle (n=158)	Cambridge (n=61)	P value
Age	66.5 (10.3)	64.4 (7.8)	0.103 <sup>a</sup>
Male gender	104 (65.8)	36 (59.0)	0.347 <sup>b</sup>
Disease duration (mo)	6.0 (4.5)	4.3 (6.0)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
MDS UPDRS III	27.1 (12.1)	28.8 (11.2)	0.373
LEDD (mg/d)	177.8 (146.9)	178.3 (171.3)	0.849
Education (years)	12.8 (3.9)	12.8 (3.0)	0.450
NART	114.6 (10.8)	113.4 (9.1)	0.143
GDS-15	2.9 (2.6)	3.0 (2.9)	0.888
MoCA <sup>c</sup>	25.1 (3.6)	25.8 (2.7)	0.499
MMSE	28.6 (1.4)	29.0 (1.0)	0.120

Table 2-4 Demographics and clinical characteristics of PD and control participants (unadjusted)

Characteristic	Controls (n=99)	PD (n=219)	p value
Age (years)	67.9 (8.2, 48.0 – 88.2)	65.9 (9.7, 35.0 – 87.3)	0.057 <sup>a</sup>
Male gender	54 (54.5%)	140 (63.9%)	0.112 <sup>b</sup>
Education (years)	13.1 (3.4)	12.8 (3.6)	0.356
Disease duration (months)	-	5.5 (5.0)	-
Hoehn & Yahr stage I	-	57 (26.0%)	-
Hoehn & Yahr stage II	-	125 (57.1%)	-
Hoehn & Yahr stage III	-	36 (16.4%)	-
Hoehn & Yahr stage IV	-	1 (0.5%)	-
MDS UPDRS part 3	-	27.6 (11.9)	-
Levodopa equivalent dose (mg/d)	-	178.0 (153.7)	-
Treatment naive	-	36 (16.4%)	-
Levodopa use	-	64 (29.2%)	-
Dopamine agonist use	-	83 (37.9%)	-
Monoamine oxidase inhibitor	-	78 (35.6%)	-
Amantadine	-	3 (1.4%)	-
Antidepressant use	10 (10.1%)	35 (16.0%)	0.164 <sup>b</sup>
NART	116 (8.7)	114 (10.3)	0.366
MoCA <sup>c</sup>	27.0 (2.5)	25.3 (3.4)	<0.001
MMSE	29.0 (1.2)	28.7 (1.3)	0.010
GDS 15	1.0 (1.5)	2.9 (2.7)	<0.001

Data are mean (SD) or number (%), and range for age. MDS UPDRS=Movement Disorder Society Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale; NART=National Adult Reading Test; MoCA=Montreal Cognitive Assessment; MMSE=Mini Mental State Examination; GDS 15=Geriatric Depression Scale-15; <sup>a</sup>Unpaired t-test; <sup>b</sup> Pearson Chi-square test; the remainder used Mann-Whitney test; <sup>c</sup>n=292 (controls=97;PD=195).

### 2.6.3 Cognitive profile of early PD

The cognitive profile of control and PD participants are shown in Table 2-5. Cognitive test scores on all domains, apart from language, were significantly lower in PD than control participants, even after controlling for age using ANCOVA. The greatest effect sizes for cognitive tests between PD and control participants were seen in tests of attention and OTS, a test of executive function.

Table 2-5 Cognitive profiles of all controls versus PD participants. Comparisons performed using ANCOVA with age as a covariate; values are adjusted means (SD)

Characteristic	Controls (n=99)	PD all (n=219)	p value	Effect size of cognitive test
<b>MoCA</b>	27.1 (2.5)	25.2 (3.4)	<0.001	0.76
<b>MMSE</b>	29.1 (1.2)	28.7 (1.3)	0.006	0.35
<b>Power of attention (msec)</b>	1272.2 (136.0)	1381.8 (233.7)	<0.001	0.81
<b>Digit vigilance accuracy (%)</b>	96.3 (5.8)	92.0 (12.8)	0.002	0.75
<b>Pattern recognition memory</b>	20.8 (2.5)	19.6 (3.1)	0.001	0.48
<b>Spatial recognition memory</b>	16.2 (1.8)	15.3 (2.2)	<0.001	0.51
<b>Paired associates learning</b>	1.8 (0.5)	2.0 (0.8)	0.009	0.42
<b>One touch stockings</b>	16.6 (2.5)	14.4 (4.2)	<0.001	0.84
<b>Phonemic fluency</b>	13.1 (4.7)	11.8 (4.7)	0.024	0.28
<b>Semantic fluency</b>	24.2 (6.1)	21.0 (6.6)	<0.001	0.52
<b>Pentagon copying</b>	2.0 (0.2)	1.8 (0.4)	0.009	0.51
<b>Naming</b>	2.8 (0.4)	2.9 (0.3)	0.365	0.09
<b>Sentence</b>	1.7 (0.6)	1.6 (0.6)	0.104	0.22

81 out of 195 PD participants who completed the MoCA (41.5%) scored less than 26 and therefore met the criteria for level 1 MCI, compared with 22.7% in the control group. Those who met the criteria for level 1 MCI were older, had a longer disease duration, fewer years of education, higher depression scores and were on higher doses of dopaminergic medications than those with PD who were cognitively normal (PD-CN) (Table 2-6). After adjusting for age and education in an ANCOVA, cognitive scores were worse in all tests apart from PoA in those with MCI. Level 2 criteria were met by 144 (65.8%) of PD participants at 1 SD below normative values, 93 (42.5%) at 1.5 SD and 49 (22.4%) at 2 SD. The corresponding figures for controls were 43 (43.4%) at 1 SD, 21 (21.2%) at 1.5 SD and 9 (9.1%) at 2 SD. PD participants who met level 2 criteria were older, completed fewer years of education, had greater motor disability and scored higher on the GDS than those who were cognitively normal (Table 2-7). Cognitive scores were poorer in all tests in those with level 2 MCI, even after adjusting for age and education in an ANCOVA. 54.5% of those classified as level 2 MCI at 1 SD also met criteria for level 1 MCI, with the corresponding figures for 1.5 and 2 SD 65.5 and 73.3%, respectively. Conversely, 90.1% of those with a MoCA score of less than 26 were impaired at level 2 criteria at 1 SD, 70.4% at 1.5 SD and 40.7% at 2 SD.

When PD participants were dichotomised by motor phenotype into those who were tremor dominant (TD) and non-TD, there was no difference in the proportions who were represented in the MCI groups either at level 1 (Table 2-6) or level 2 (Table 2-7) compared with PD-CN. Those who were non-TD scored significantly worse on semantic fluency than TD participants (adjusted mean score 19.6 vs. 22.5,  $p=0.002$  after Bonferroni correction); but otherwise there were no significant differences between the groups.

Table 2-6 Cognitive profile of PD participants according to level 1 MCI criteria

Characteristic	Level 1 PD-CN (n=114)	Level 1 MCI (n=81)	p value	Adjusted p value <sup>a</sup>
Age (years)	64.1	69	<0.001	-
Male gender (n)	72	53	0.764	-
Education (years)	13.8	11.5	<0.001	-
Disease duration (mo)	4.7	6.4	0.022	-
MDS UPDRS part 3	26.4	29.7	0.54	-
Proportion non-TD phenotype (%)	45.6	51.9	0.390	-
LEDD (mg/d)	157.1	203.5	0.039	-
MoCA	27.7	21.9	<0.001	<0.001
MMSE	29.1	28.2	<0.001	<0.001
GDS 15	2.6	3.3	0.023	0.027 <sup>b</sup>
Power of attention (msec)	1361.5	1417.2	0.02	0.311
Digit vigilance accuracy (%)	94.2	88.3	<0.001	0.018
Pattern recognition memory	20.6	18.1	<0.001	<0.001
Spatial recognition memory	15.7	14.8	0.006	0.043
Paired associates learning	1.8	2.3	<0.001	<0.001
One touch stockings	15.8	12.4	<0.001	<0.001
Phonemic fluency	13.2	10	<0.001	<0.001
Semantic fluency	22.6	18.7	<0.001	0.004
Pentagon copying	1.9	1.7	<0.001	0.007
Naming	3	2.8	<0.001	<0.001
Sentence	1.8	1.4	<0.001	0.001

Values are mean (SD); <sup>a</sup>Cognitive scores adjusted for age and years of education; <sup>b</sup>GDS adjusted for age; non-TD=non tremor dominant motor phenotype; LEDD=levodopa equivalent dose

Table 2-7 Cognitive profiles of PD participants according to level 2 MCI criteria

Characteristic	Level 2 PD-CN (n=75)	Level 2 MCI 1 SD (n=51; cumulative n=144)	Level 2 MCI 1.5 SD (n=44; cumulative n=93)	Level 2 MCI 2 SD (n=49; cumulative n=49)	p value	Adjusted p value <sup>a</sup>
<b>Age (years)</b>	61.2	67.3	68.9	69	<0.001	-
<b>Male gender (n)</b>	42	35	29	34	0.356	-
<b>Education (years)</b>	14.4	13.1	11.2	11.4	<0.001	-
<b>Disease duration (mo)</b>	5.3	6.2	5.8	4.8	0.43	-
<b>MDS UPDRS part 3</b>	22.8	27.2	31.7	31.6	<0.001	-
<b>Proportion non-TD phenotype (%)</b>	53.3	39.2	54.5	49.0	0.384	-
<b>LEDD (mg/d)</b>	177.5	149.2	202.4	186.8	0.362	-
<b>MoCA</b>	27.4	26.1	24.5	22.3	<0.001	<0.001
<b>MMSE</b>	29.3	28.8	28.4	27.9	<0.001	<0.001
<b>GDS 15</b>	2.3	2.8	2.9	4	0.016	<0.001 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Power of attention (msec)</b>	1266	1310	1403.9	1601.9	<0.001	<0.001
<b>Digit vigilance accuracy (%)</b>	97.5	96.7	92.2	78.9	<0.001	<0.001
<b>Pattern recognition memory</b>	21.8	19.9	19.2	16.9	<0.001	<0.001
<b>Spatial recognition memory</b>	16.9	15.3	14.9	13.4	<0.001	<0.001
<b>Paired associates learning</b>	1.6	1.8	2.2	2.6	<0.001	<0.001
<b>One touch stockings</b>	16.9	14.8	14.1	11.1	<0.001	<0.001
<b>Phonemic fluency</b>	14.3	11.8	9.7	9.8	<0.001	<0.001

<b>Semantic fluency</b>	25	21.5	19.1	16.7	<0.001	<0.001
<b>Pentagon copying</b>	2	1.9	1.8	1.6	<0.001	<0.001
<b>Naming</b>	3	2.9	2.8	2.8	0.009	0.021
<b>Sentence</b>	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.4	0.001	0.003

<sup>a</sup>Cognitive scores adjusted for age and years of education; <sup>b</sup>GDS adjusted for age; non-TD=non tremor dominant motor phenotype; LEDD=levodopa equivalent daily dose

#### **2.6.4 MCI subtypes**

Among the five cognitive domains, memory impairment was the most common domain affected in PD participants at 1, 1.5 and 2 SD below normative values (24.2, 15.1 and 5.5%, respectively). This was followed by executive dysfunction in 24.7, 11.0 and 4.1% of participants and attention/working memory impairment in 20.1, 12.3 and 5.5%, respectively (Figure 2-2). Visuospatial impairment occurred in 13.2, 13.2 and 1.8%. Only 5.0% of participants were impaired in the language domain at 1 SD below the control mean. In control participants, the memory domain was also the most common domain affected at 1, 1.5 and 2 SD below normative values (12.1, 8.1 and 2.0%, respectively). This was followed by executive dysfunction in 9.1, 3.0 and 1.0% and attention in 7.1, 3.0 and 1.0%, respectively. Visuospatial dysfunction was seen in 5.1% at 1 and 1.5 SD only, with 6.1, 1.0 and 1.0% impaired in language domain at 1, 1.5 and 2 SD, respectively (Figure 2-2). When level 2 MCI criteria were applied at 1.5 SD, 12.8% of those with PD were classified as nonamnestic single-domain MCI (naMCI-sd), 7.7% had amnestic (aMCI-sd), 5.0% were nonamnestic multiple-domain (naMCI-md) and 8.2% had aMCI-md (Figure 2-3). For controls, the corresponding figures were 8.1% for naMCI-sd, 5.1% for aMCI-sd, 0% for naMCI-md and 3.0% for aMCI-md (Figure 2-3). The remainder of those classified as MCI had mixed deficits and did not fall within one classification. This included subjects who were impaired in just two tests but in different domains, meaning that there was no “pure” domain impairment.

Figure 2-2 Graphical representation of percentage of PD and control participants impaired according to single cognitive domain

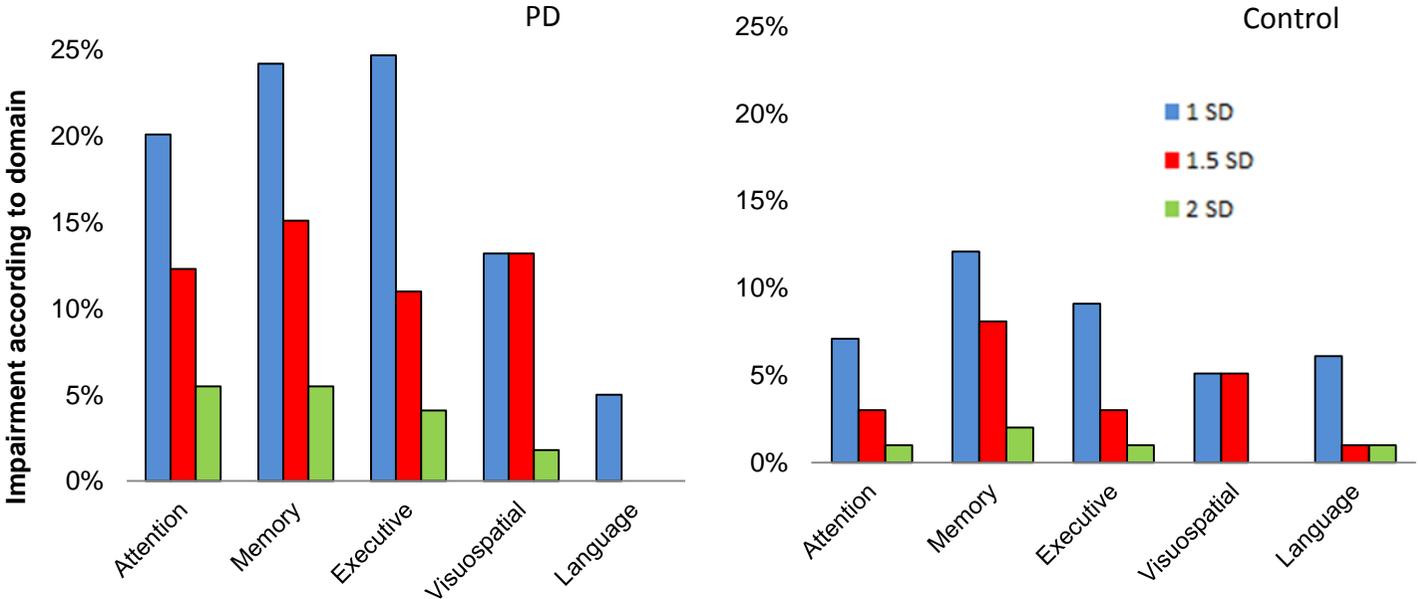
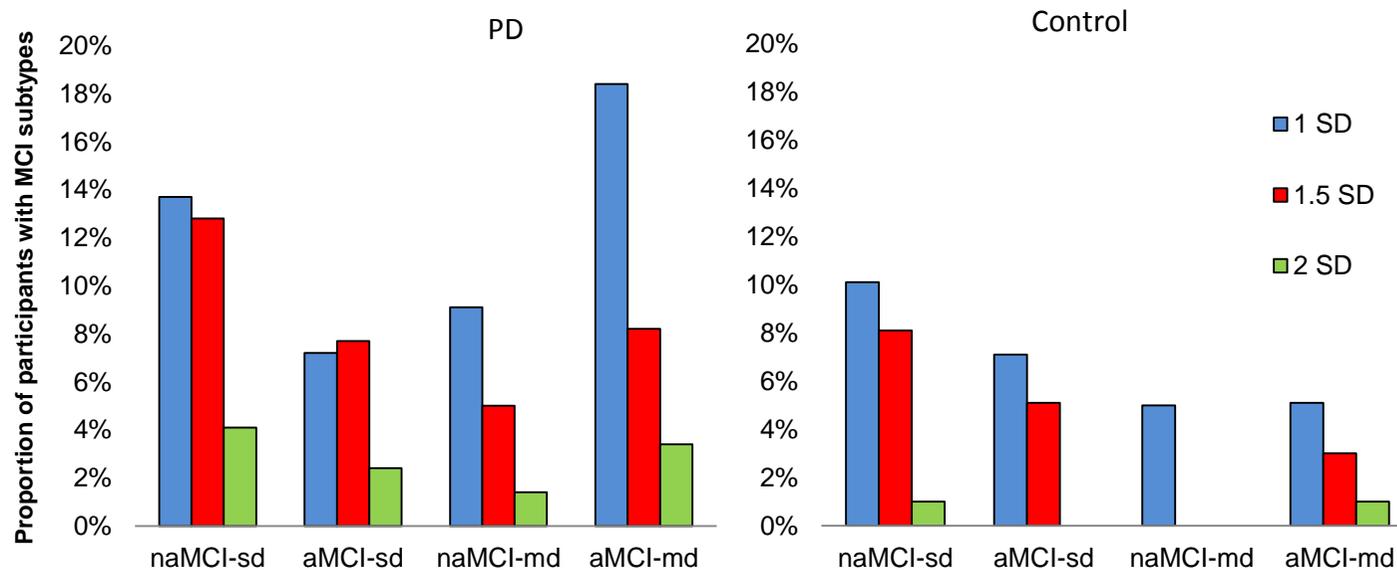


Figure 2-3 Graphical representation of PD and control participants impaired according to subtypes of MCI



na = non-amnestic; a = amnestic; sd = single-domain; md = multiple-domain

## 2.7 Discussion – cognition in early PD

This study has shown that in a large community-acquired cohort of early PD participants, PD-MCI is common, with 42.5% meeting level 2 MDS criteria at 1.5 SD below normative means. The clinical profile of these subjects differed from those with normal cognition, being significantly older, with greater motor impairment and depression. This is the first study to apply the new MDS PD-MCI criteria to a cohort of early PD.

Previous studies of patients with early or untreated PD have shown frequencies of PD-MCI between 14.8 and 36% (Foltynie *et al.*, 2004; Muslimovic *et al.*, 2005; Aarsland *et al.*, 2009b; Poletti *et al.*, 2012). A critical review of PD-MCI with a comprehensive literature review found a mean frequency of 26.7% (Litvan *et al.*, 2011), and an earlier large meta-analysis 25.8% (Aarsland *et al.*, 2010). However, very recent work using the MDS PD-MCI criteria in a prevalent PD cohort found a similar rate of 41%, when level 2 criteria were used at 1.5 SDs below normative values and the authors did not include cognitive complaint as part of the criteria (Marras *et al.*, 2013). The higher prevalence of PD-MCI in this study may be explained by our adoption of the new MDS PD-MCI criteria, which are generally considered to be less conservative than other definitions of MCI. In addition, by using two computerised test systems we may have increased the precision of measuring cognition. Further work is required to validate the new MDS MCI criteria in longitudinal assessments, and to determine the optimum type and number of cognitive tests that will best predict future cognitive decline. In addition, future studies should also determine the prognostic utility of MCI in PD and whether this diagnosis does predict future cognitive decline. A recent longitudinal study suggests that a diagnosis of MCI at baseline assessment is associated with a relative risk of dementia during follow-up of 39, although it should be noted that a significant proportion (21.6%) of those diagnosed with MCI reverted to normal cognition over three years (Pedersen *et al.*, 2013). Furthermore, the sensitivity and specificity of the screening tests used to determine level 1 PD-MCI should be further examined, as 27% of PD participants classified here as level 2 MCI at 2 SDs below normative values had normal MoCA scores. In keeping with our work, the aforementioned study found similar performance of the MoCA, with a specificity of only 44% in those who scored 26 or less (Marras *et al.*, 2013).

In common with a number of studies , we found that nonamnestic single-domain was the most common PD-MCI subtype (Janvin *et al.*, 2006; Caviness *et al.*, 2007; Aarsland *et al.*, 2009b; Mamikonyan *et al.*, 2009; Aarsland *et al.*, 2010; Sollinger *et al.*, 2010; Litvan *et al.*, 2011; Goldman *et al.*, 2012a). This is in contrast to the general population, where amnestic MCI is the most common subtype. MCI in the general population is generally less common than in PD, with prevalence rates of between 14 to 18% in those aged 70 and over; indeed, the annual progression to dementia in these patients may only be between 6-10% (Petersen *et al.*, 2009). The sub-optimal sensitivity of the MMSE in detecting cognitive impairment in PD is consistent with earlier studies (Nasreddine *et al.*, 2005; Zadikoff *et al.*, 2008).

The largest effect sizes seen for individual cognitive tests in PD participants were OTS and PoA from the frontal-executive and attention domains, respectively. These are likely to represent differing underlying pathophysiology, with PoA dependent on cortical cholinergic function and OTS with dopamine-dependent fronto-parietal-caudate function.

Motor phenotype did not come up as a determinant of MCI, which is somewhat surprising in view of its well-established association with dementia (Alves *et al.*, 2006; Burn *et al.*, 2006; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2007a; Taylor *et al.*, 2008). It is recognised that motor phenotype does change over the course of the disease, with the majority of the transition seen from TD to PIGD (Alves *et al.*, 2006); it is therefore possible that our participants were at such an early disease stage that the true influence of motor phenotype has not yet emerged. Also, motor phenotype was calculated using the new MDS-UPDRS scale (Stebbins *et al.*, 2013), which does require further validation in larger, longitudinally assessed cohorts of PD subjects. Participants with non-TD disease did score worse on semantic fluency than those with TD disease, however, and this test has been previously identified as a predictor of future dementia (Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2007a; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2009a).

The principal strengths of this hypothesis-driven prospective study are its multimodal design and recruitment of a large community cohort with early disease. Through future longitudinal evaluation, we will determine whether those participants currently classified as PD-MCI at baseline are at increased risk of PDD, and the subtypes that ultimately predict cognitive decline. Previous cross-sectional studies of MCI have been

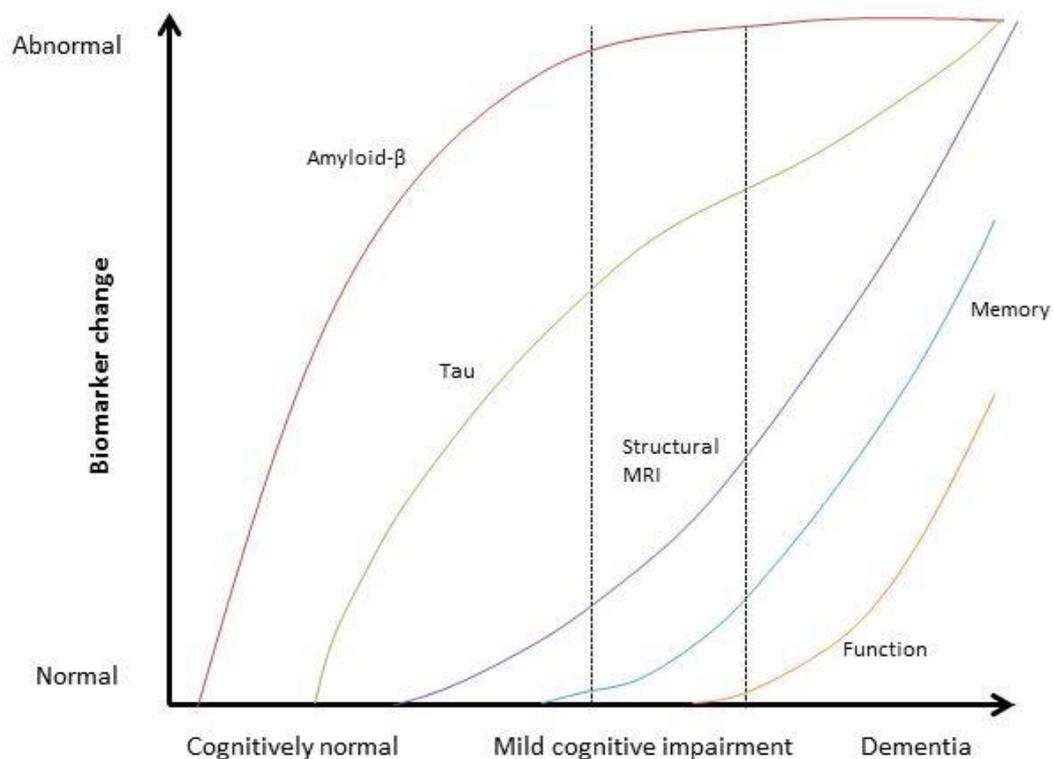
limited by small sample sizes and disease heterogeneity. Our sample is further strengthened by a matched control group who underwent detailed assessments. Limitations include the fact that not all of the participants were treatment-naïve, which may limit the generalizability to all early stage PD patients, but arguably this makes the findings more relevant to clinicians and researchers. A large number of patients declined to take part in the study, which may limit how we translate the findings to the wider PD population. Participants who declined to take part in the study were older, were often caring for frail relatives, may have had a greater number of co-morbidities and thus are potentially more likely to develop dementia. These participants may have reflected the inclusion of geriatric medicine clinics as sources of referral which we believe enhanced our ability to include patients who may have otherwise not contributed. Apathy and depression may also have played a role in the refusal to participate, as both have been shown to be common in early disease (Khoo *et al.*, 2013). The population was largely recruited from the community, which may have introduced bias towards an increase in those with cognitive impairment. Certainly we noted that a significant proportion of our control participants also met the criteria for MCI, which is likely to represent the fact that we did not pre-screen for cognition. Again we would argue that this suggests that these controls were more representative of the wider global community. In terms of the cognitive measures used, domains of attention, memory and executive function were well covered, but testing of visuospatial function and language was limited, which may be one explanation for the low frequency of impairment observed in these domains and limit to absolute applicability of the MDS criteria. However, inability to copy intersecting pentagons has been shown to be a significant predictor of dementia risk (Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2009a), and there is evidence from other studies that language function is less likely to be affected in early cognitive dysfunction in PD (Caviness *et al.*, 2007). In summary, the ICICLE-PD study has shown that mild cognitive impairment is more common than previously reported in patients with newly diagnosed PD. Future longitudinal assessment will determine whether those participants are at increased risk of PDD, allowing for identification of disease modification strategies and targeted treatment options.

## Chapter 3 Cerebrospinal fluid as a biomarker for cognitive decline in Parkinson's disease

### 3.1 Rationale for cerebrospinal fluid as a biomarker in neurodegenerative disease

Although the diagnosis of different neurodegenerative diseases may be based on clinical findings and imaging markers, often the earliest pathological alterations may be undetected before clinical findings become apparent. There is evidence that in Alzheimer's disease (AD), the earliest changes seen are in amyloid deposition, followed by neurodegeneration and cell loss. These precede detectable cognitive changes by many years (Jack *et al.*, 2010)(Figure 3-1).

Figure 3-1 Changes in biomarkers in AD (adapted from Jack et al, 2010)



Earlier recognition of these patients with neurodegenerative disorders and biochemical abnormalities using biomarkers is important because it allows prognostication with early and accurate diagnosis, allows identification of those patients who may be selected for neuroprotective or disease-modifying therapies and it offers insight into the underlying pathophysiology of the disease. Furthermore,

sensitive and specific biomarkers that permit the detection of preclinical disease could also offer objective measures of disease progression and outcome in clinical trials. Potential biomarkers in such diseases include structural or functional imaging, genetic markers, blood or cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). As shown in Figure 3-1, imaging changes may not be seen until late in the disease process; therefore, CSF may be a more suitable alternative.

CSF bathes the central nervous system (CNS) and may reflect brain pathology and brain metabolic systems more accurately than plasma or serum, although CSF proteins are derived from both blood and brain tissue (Pan *et al.*, 2007; van Dijk *et al.*, 2010). Proteins derived from blood enter the CSF via the choroid plexus, and follow the flow of CSF to the ventricles and subarachnoid space, thus creating an increasing protein gradient from ventricular to lumbar CSF (van Dijk *et al.*, 2010). This has implications for the site of CSF withdrawal, as does a traumatic tap with subsequent blood contamination (Teunissen *et al.*, 2009). Some CSF proteins are also influenced by circadian rhythm. In view of these variations, a standardised protocol for the collection of CSF has been produced (Teunissen *et al.*, 2009).

The most widely studied peptides in neurodegenerative diseases and dementia are amyloid- $\beta$  and tau. More recently,  $\alpha$ -synuclein has been investigated as a potential biomarker for synucleinopathies. These proteins are discussed in further detail below.

### **3.1.1 Amyloid- $\beta$**

Amyloid- $\beta$  (A $\beta$ ) proteins are a key component of extracellular amyloid plaques and cerebrovascular amyloid that form part of the pathological hallmark of AD (Glennner and Wong, 1984; Selkoe, 1996; Verbeek *et al.*, 2003). A $\beta$  is derived from the proteolytic cleavage of A $\beta$  precursor protein (APP), with the subsequent peptide production dependent on the length of amino acid chain produced by the enzymes  $\beta$ - then  $\gamma$ -secretases at the C-terminus. The peptides produced from this cleavage vary in their ability to aggregate, depending on their length and the degree of post-translational oxidation (Mollenhauer and Trenkwalder, 2009). The longer 42-amino acid form, A $\beta$ 42, is a major constituent of neuritic amyloid plaques, and is highly prone to oligomerization and aggregation into fibrils (Jarrett *et al.*, 1993; Selkoe, 1996; Verbeek *et al.*, 2003; Irvine *et al.*, 2008). It is this conformation of oligomers and fibrils that precipitate neurotoxicity. A $\beta$ 40, containing 40 residues, is more abundantly

produced than A $\beta$ 42 and is also found within neuritic amyloid plaques, although there is some evidence that A $\beta$ 42 is the more toxic of the species (Jarrett *et al.*, 1993). A $\beta$ 40 is not found within diffuse plaques, which are not fibrillar and contain almost exclusively A $\beta$ 42 proteins; these are thought to represent precursors of mature, neuritic plaques (Irvine *et al.*, 2008). A $\beta$  is found within the CSF (Seubert *et al.*, 1992; Shoji *et al.*, 1992), with a robust inverse correlation found between CSF A $\beta$  and ante- and post-mortem amyloid plaque pathology in AD (Clark *et al.*, 2003; Strozzyk *et al.*, 2003; Fagan *et al.*, 2006; Grimmer *et al.*, 2009; Jack *et al.*, 2010). AD, DLB and PDD participants with positive PiB PET imaging consistently demonstrate low CSF A $\beta$ 42 levels (Fagan *et al.*, 2006; Grimmer *et al.*, 2009; Maetzler *et al.*, 2009), with neuropathological amyloid plaque numbers in the neocortex and hippocampus strongly associated with lower CSF A $\beta$ 42 levels (Strozzyk *et al.*, 2003). The reason for reduced A $\beta$  in CSF is thought to be due to sequestration within the parenchyma of senile plaques, with subsequently lower circulating levels available to diffuse into the CSF, although other reasons include the non-detection of A $\beta$  oligomers and its binding to other proteins (Irvine *et al.*, 2008). Reduced circulating CSF A $\beta$ 42 levels have been found in other conditions, including Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, where plaque pathology may be part of prion disease but does not form a major extent of the disease burden (Mollenhauer *et al.*, 2011a). Hence it has been postulated that A $\beta$ 42 may be a more non-specific measure of neurodegeneration. Although CSF A $\beta$ 42 and A $\beta$ 40 have demonstrated considerable variation in hour-to-hour sampling over a 36-hour period in non-demented control participants (Bateman *et al.*, 2007), this was not replicated in a small number of mildly impaired older adults sampled every 6 hours over the same time period (Moghekar *et al.*, 2012). Overall, however, low CSF A $\beta$  is likely to represent a suitable biomarker of cortical A $\beta$  plaque load.

### **3.1.2 Tau**

Tau operates as a microtubule-associated protein, stabilising microtubules that are required for the axonal transport of cytoplasmic organelles within the neuron (Verbeek *et al.*, 2003). Tau is usually only mildly phosphorylated in health, but in AD becomes hyperphosphorylated, precipitating tau aggregation, accumulation of insoluble paired helical filaments and tangle formation, ultimately leading to neuronal cell death and leakage of tau into the CSF (Verbeek *et al.*, 2003). Hence, although total tau is

measured, phosphorylated tau levels in addition may be a more specific marker of tangle formation. In AD, intracellular neurofibrillary tangles are found in close proximity to A $\beta$  plaques, lending support to the concept of A $\beta$  induced neurotoxicity (Irvine *et al.*, 2008), although tau pathology is also found in other neurodegenerative disorders without A $\beta$  pathology, including progressive supranuclear palsy, frontotemporal dementia and corticobasal degeneration. Tau is phosphorylated at a number of sites, including threonine 181, 205 and 231. Assays that detect tau phosphorylated at threonine 181 (P181-tau) are commonly used in clinical practice as a measure of phosphorylated tau. Neither total- or P181-tau were found to significantly vary in repeated measures over a 36-hour time period (Moghekar *et al.*, 2012), and these markers of tau plus A $\beta$ 42 remained stable over a 6 month assessment period in subjects with AD (Blennow *et al.*, 2007). In AD, increased CSF levels of total and phosphorylated tau correlated with neuropathological neurofibrillary tangle scores (Tapiola *et al.*, 1997; Buerger *et al.*, 2006; Tapiola *et al.*, 2009), suggesting that CSF tau measurements may be an appropriate antemortem measure of tangle deposition. However, tau levels are greatly elevated in Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) (Otto *et al.*, 2002) and increased in acute stroke (Hesse *et al.*, 2001), suggesting that tau may also be a marker of general neuronal loss.

### **3.1.3 $\alpha$ -synuclein**

As discussed in Chapter 1, pre-synaptic  $\alpha$ -synuclein is the major constituent of Lewy bodies and Lewy neurites, and is found in PD and other synucleinopathies. Like amyloid,  $\alpha$ -synuclein proteins first coalesce as soluble oligomers, then aggregate as protofibrils before forming insoluble fibrils (El-Agnaf *et al.*, 2003). There is evidence that these intermediate soluble oligomers and protofibrils may be the pathogenic species causing neuronal death and neurodegeneration (El-Agnaf *et al.*, 2003).  $\alpha$ -synuclein can be detected in plasma, CSF and within blood cells (Henchcliffe *et al.*, 2011). To date, most studies have demonstrated lower total CSF  $\alpha$ -synuclein in PD patients compared to controls (Tokuda *et al.*, 2006; Mollenhauer *et al.*, 2008; Hong *et al.*, 2010; Mollenhauer *et al.*, 2011b; Shi *et al.*, 2011) and compared to AD subjects (Mollenhauer *et al.*, 2011b; Tateno *et al.*, 2012), although others have shown no difference (Borghi *et al.*, 2000; Ohrfelt *et al.*, 2009; Reesink *et al.*, 2010). Reduced  $\alpha$ -synuclein has been detected even in *de novo* PD patients (Mollenhauer *et al.*, 2013).

Synucleinopathies have generally been shown to have reduced CSF  $\alpha$ -synuclein compared with tauopathies (Ballard *et al.*, 2010; Mollenhauer *et al.*, 2011b; Shi *et al.*, 2011), and in the largest study to date on CSF biomarkers in neurodegenerative disease,  $\alpha$ -synuclein levels of less than 1.6 pg/ $\mu$ L had a positive predictive value of 90.7 % for a synucleinopathy (Mollenhauer *et al.*, 2011b). The explanation for the decrease in CSF  $\alpha$ -synuclein could be due to intracellular aggregation, resulting in reduced extracellular release, alterations in gene transcription or a greater clearance of the protein from CSF (Mollenhauer and Trenkwalder, 2009). There is some evidence that  $\alpha$ -synuclein increases with age (Hong *et al.*, 2010) and decreases with PD severity (Tokuda *et al.*, 2006), although this has not been consistently shown.  $\alpha$ -synuclein is affected by blood contamination of the CSF and therefore red cell count should be controlled for (Hong *et al.*, 2010). As stated above, it has been postulated that oligomeric not total  $\alpha$ -synuclein may be the toxic species in PD, and more recent studies that measured CSF oligomeric  $\alpha$ -synuclein have found increased levels in PD (Tokuda *et al.*, 2010) and DLB (Paleologou *et al.*, 2009). To date there has been little investigation of  $\alpha$ -synuclein and cognition, although one small study in DLB found that lower  $\alpha$ -synuclein levels correlated with lower scores on MMSE and verbal fluency (Reesink *et al.*, 2010). Therefore, in view of conflicting results to date, definitive conclusions cannot be drawn on whether CSF measurement of  $\alpha$ -synuclein in PD is a useful potential cognitive marker.

#### **3.1.4 Other CSF proteins**

Other CSF proteins that have been explored in neurodegenerative diseases include markers of inflammation such as interleukins, neuropeptides, neurofilaments and oxidative stress markers (Hu *et al.*, 2010; van Dijk *et al.*, 2010; Henchcliffe *et al.*, 2011). A further protein product indicative of oxidative stress and mitochondrial dysfunction is DJ-1, which has shown promise as a possible biomarker of PD (Hong *et al.*, 2010). In a large well conducted study, decreased DJ-1 levels in the CSF were found in PD compared with AD and control participants, with a sensitivity and specificity for patients with PD versus controls of 90 and 70%, respectively. Further work is required to validate these findings in wider neurodegenerative populations.

### 3.2 Cerebrospinal fluid in Alzheimer's disease and other dementias

The typical pattern of CSF findings in AD is well established (Verbeek *et al.*, 2003), and more recently, this pattern of decreased A $\beta$ 42 with increased total-tau (T-tau) and P181-tau has been recommended as supportive criteria for the diagnosis of AD (Dubois *et al.*, 2010). General patterns of CSF biomarkers in other forms of cognitive impairment are shown in Table 3-1. Changes seen in mild cognitive impairment (MCI) are similar to those seen in AD and predict the development of future AD (Mattsson *et al.*, 2009; Visser *et al.*, 2009), although it is likely that longitudinal cognitive decline only occurs in those with increased P181-tau levels (Desikan *et al.*, 2012). In DLB, the pattern of CSF markers is similar to that found in AD and has been hypothesised to be due to the burden of AD pathology (Parnetti *et al.*, 2008). However, DLB may be differentiated from AD by increased A $\beta$ 40 and reduced  $\alpha$ -synuclein levels, thought to be due to disease-specific mechanisms of amyloid deposition driven by interactions with  $\alpha$ -synuclein pathology (Bibl *et al.*, 2006). Changes seen in frontotemporal dementia include raised tau levels that are greater than in PD and controls, but less than changes seen in AD (Parnetti *et al.*, 2011). In addition, a modest reduction in A $\beta$ 42 and increase in A $\beta$ 40 has been found, with a more specific and marked reduction in A $\beta$ 38; this may be due to a disease specific phenomenon, masking of epitopes to antibodies or an upregulation of other A $\beta$  peptides (Bibl *et al.*, 2007). Lastly, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is characterised by a massive increase in tau levels due to neuronal death, with reduced A $\beta$ 42 despite the relative absence of plaque pathology. It has been hypothesised that this may be due to the influence of prion proteins impeding A $\beta$  metabolism, or a possible common chaperone complex that shows a high affinity binding and epitope masking of A $\beta$ 42 (Mollenhauer *et al.*, 2011a).

Table 3-1 CSF markers in cognitive impairment

Diagnosis	T-tau	P-Tau	A $\beta$ 42	A $\beta$ 40	A $\beta$ 42: A $\beta$ 40	Other comments	References
AD	↑↑	↑↑	↓↓	↔↓	↓	ApoE4 ↓ A $\beta$ 42 levels	(Verbeek <i>et al.</i> , 2003; Vemuri <i>et al.</i> , 2009)
MCI-AD	↑	↑	↓	-	↓		(Shaw <i>et al.</i> , 2009; Vemuri <i>et al.</i> , 2009; Koyama <i>et al.</i> , 2012)
DLB	↑	↑	↓	↑	-	↓ $\alpha$ syn	(Mollenhauer <i>et al.</i> , 2005; Bibl <i>et al.</i> , 2006; Bibl <i>et al.</i> , 2010; Andersson <i>et al.</i> , 2011; Mollenhauer <i>et al.</i> , 2011b)
FTD	↑	↑	↔↓	↑	-	↓↓ A $\beta$ 38	(Bibl <i>et al.</i> , 2007; Parnetti <i>et al.</i> , 2011)
CJD	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↓↓	↔	-	↑ $\alpha$ syn	(Otto <i>et al.</i> , 2002; Mollenhauer <i>et al.</i> , 2008; Mollenhauer <i>et al.</i> , 2011a)

AD = Alzheimer's disease; MCI = mild cognitive impairment; DLB = dementia with Lewy bodies; FTD = frontotemporal dementia; CJD = Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease

### 3.3 CSF amyloid and tau as biomarkers of cognition in Parkinson's disease

In recent years, there has been an exponential increase in the number of studies assessing potential CSF biomarkers that may be predictive of AD, DLB, PD, PDD and atypical parkinsonian disorders. Differences in definition of the neurodegenerative disorder, differing CSF protein measurement systems (for example, enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) versus bead-based approach in the Luminex platform) and diverse reading techniques (namely spectrometry versus luminescence) result in difficulties drawing comparisons in specific protein levels across studies. The majority of this chapter will discuss studies that have specifically looked at cognition and/or phenotypes in Parkinson's disease (highlighted in yellow in Table 3-2). In non-demented PD (PDND) participants, most studies have not demonstrated a significant difference in total tau levels between PDND and controls (Molina *et al.*, 1997; Steur *et al.*, 1998; Kanemaru *et al.*, 2000; Sjogren *et al.*, 2000; Lins *et al.*, 2004; Parnetti *et al.*, 2008; Compta *et al.*, 2009; Alves *et al.*, 2010; Parnetti *et al.*, 2011). The results are

similar for P181-tau, although only later studies specifically measured this protein (Parnetti *et al.*, 2008; Compta *et al.*, 2009; Alves *et al.*, 2010; Parnetti *et al.*, 2011). One recent small study did demonstrate increased total tau, total tau/A $\beta$ 42 ratio and clusterin (a glycoprotein released under cytotoxic conditions) levels in PD participants with a short disease duration compared to controls; the authors postulated that the findings may be due to high levels of neurodegeneration in early disease (Vranova *et al.*, 2010). In contrast, two large biomarker studies found that both total and P181-tau were lower in PD participants compared with controls (Shi *et al.*, 2011; Hall *et al.*, 2012), although it should be noted that both of these studies were designed to assess the accuracy of a number of CSF biomarkers across a number of neurodegenerative diseases, and not specifically to compare PD with other groups. In terms of amyloid markers and PDND participants, early studies plus one recent study did not demonstrate differences in A $\beta$ 42 levels compared to controls (Kanemaru *et al.*, 2000; Sjogren *et al.*, 2000; Holmberg *et al.*, 2003; Lins *et al.*, 2004; Parnetti *et al.*, 2011), whereas later studies have found consistently decreased A $\beta$ 42 levels in PDND subjects (Parnetti *et al.*, 2008; Compta *et al.*, 2009; Alves *et al.*, 2010; Shi *et al.*, 2011). A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 38 are also lower in these patients (Alves *et al.*, 2010). These changes may be present even before clinical PD manifests. In a recent study of asymptomatic and symptomatic *LRRK2* carriers, there was a trend towards lower CSF analytes in those with clinical disease compared to those with asymptomatic mutations, although this did not reach statistical significance (Aasly *et al.*, 2012). In the group overall, reduced CSF A $\beta$ 42 and tau levels correlated with lower striatal dopaminergic function as determined by PET tracers, with a significant association between A $\beta$ 42 and <sup>18</sup>F-6-fluoro-L-dopa uptake.

Table 3-2 Summary of studies assessing amyloid and tau CSF biomarkers in PD

Reference	Patients	Biomarkers	Results	Other notes
<b>(Molina <i>et al.</i>, 1997)</b>	C=25 (62.8 yrs); PDND=26 (66 yrs)	Total tau (ELISA Innogenetics)	Mean PD=132.8 vs C=159.9 pg/ml (not significant)	Tau not correlated with age, age onset PD, disease duration, UPDRS or H&Y stage.
<b>(Steur <i>et al.</i>, 1998)</b>	C=16 (58 yrs); PDND=67; PDD=48 (all PD mean age 62 yrs)	Total tau (ELISA Innogenetics), AST	Tau=155, 199, 204 ng/L (C, PDND, PDD) (not significant)	Tau & AST not correlated with MMSE, disease duration, dementia duration, age or sex. PDD defined MMSE<26.
<b>(Kanemaru <i>et al.</i>, 2000)</b>	C=19 (74.7 yrs); PDND=15 (72.9 yrs); DLB=11 (75.1 yrs); AD=24 (75.8 yrs)	A $\beta$ 42, total tau (ELISA Innotest)	A $\beta$ 42=713.6, 617.1, 349.2, 284.1 pg/ml (C, PD, DLB, AD) Tau=115.1, 116.6, 137.5, 460.1 pg/ml	A $\beta$ 42 signif $\downarrow$ in DLB & AD; tau signif $\uparrow$ in AD.
<b>(Sjogren <i>et al.</i>, 2000)</b>	C=32 (71.5 yrs); PDND=23 (70.7 yrs); AD=60 (66 yrs); FTD=17 (62.4 yrs)	A $\beta$ 42, total tau (ELISA Innogenetics), GAP-43	A $\beta$ 42=772, 610, 381, 553 pg/mL (C, PD, AD, FTD) Tau=307, 313, 743, 366 pg/mL	A $\beta$ 42 & tau no different in PD & controls but $\uparrow$ & $\downarrow$ cf AD, respectively.
<b>(Holmberg <i>et al.</i>, 2003)</b>	C=32 (65.9); PD=48 (62.3); MSA=36 (63.7); PSP=15 (68.5)	A $\beta$ 42 (ELISA Innotest)	A $\beta$ 42=800, 812, 552, 729 pg/mL (C, PD, MSA, PSP)	Signif $\downarrow$ A $\beta$ 42 in MSA only cf controls
<b>(Lins <i>et al.</i>, 2004)</b>	C=12 (62.8 yrs); PDND=12 (69.3 yrs); NPH=12 (75 yrs); AD=12 (71.8 yrs); VD=12 (76.4 yrs)	A $\beta$ 42, total tau (ELISA Innogenetics)	A $\beta$ 42=648, 598, 403, 454, 580 pg/mL (C, PD, NPH, AD, VD) Tau=224, 227, 267, 729, 280 pg/mL	A $\beta$ 42 & tau no different cf controls or VD.
<b>(Bibl <i>et al.</i>, 2006)</b>	C=23 (68.5 yrs); PDD=21 (72.4 yrs); DLB=21 (71.5 yrs); AD=23 (69.5 yrs)	A $\beta$ 37, 38, 39, 40 & 42 (A $\beta$ -SDS-PAGE/immunoblot analysis)	Signif $\downarrow$ A $\beta$ 42 in AD & DLB cf controls; PDD not signif	DLB $\uparrow$ A $\beta$ 40 <sup>ox</sup> ; A $\beta$ 42/37 accurately discriminated between dementias & controls. PDD diagnosed using DSM IV criteria for dementia
<b>(Mollenhauer <i>et al.</i>, 2006b)</b>	C=41 (70yrs); PDND=23 (72 yrs); PDD=73 (72 yrs)	A $\beta$ 42, total tau (ELISA Innogenetics), ApoE genotyping	A $\beta$ 42=641, 559, 466 pg/ml (C, PD, PDD); signif $\downarrow$ PDD vs PD & C Tau=148, 216, 214 pg/ml; signif	A $\beta$ 42 & tau not correlated with age, disease duration, UPDRS, H&Y or MMSE. Changes marked in those with ApoE3/3.

<b>(Parnetti et al., 2008)</b>	C=20 (60 yrs); PD=20 (62 yrs); PDD=18 (65 yrs); DLB=19 (70 yrs); AD=23 (70 yrs)	Aβ42, total tau, P tau (ELISA Innogenetics) MMSE, MODA, NPI	PDD vs C only Aβ42=1014, 788, 647, 373, 544 pg/mL (C, PD, PDD, DLB, AD) Total tau=177, 160, 286, 508, 960 pg/mL P tau=42, 37, 52, 55, 119 pg/ml	PDD diagnosed MMSE<25 Aβ42 signif ↓ in all groups cf controls; no difference between PD & PDD. No signif difference in total tau in controls, PD or PDD (↑ DLB & AD). P tau ↑ in AD only. DLB only, trend towards ↓ Aβ42 & ↑ disease duration & ↑ total tau & ↓ MMSE/MODA scores
<b>*(Compta et al., 2009)</b>	C=30 (71.1 yrs); PDND=20 (69.1 yrs); PDD=20 (72.5 yrs)	Aβ42, total tau, P tau (ELISA Innogenetics) Neuropsychological Assessment	Aβ42=638, 539, 410 pg/mL (C, PDND, PDD) Total tau=220, 247, 463 pg/mL P tau=31, 29, 46 pg/ml Signif ↑ T & P tau in PDD vs PDND & controls. Signif linearity in Aβ42 between 3 groups. No correlation with UPDRS or H&Y. MANOVA- age signif ass with total tau & P tau.	All PD- T & P tau signif associated with recall, recognition, naming & visuoperceptive deficits. Aβ42 signif ↓ in those with phonemic & semantic deficits & positive correlation with semantic fluency. PDND- Aβ42 signif ↓ in px with impaired phonemic fluency & positively correlated with this variable. PDD- T & P tau signif associated with impaired recognition & naming.
<b>(Montine et al., 2010)</b>	C=115 (68 yrs); aMCI=24 (68 yrs); AD=49 (68 yrs); PD=41 (64 yrs); PD-CIND=58 (66 yrs); PDD=11 (71 yrs)	Aβ42, total tau, P181 tau (AlzBio3 Luminex kits from Innogenetics)	Aβ42=378, 322, 313, 220 pg/mL (C, PD, PD-CIND, PDD) Total tau=60, 54, 53, 33 pg/mL P tau=25, 20, 20, 17 pg/ml	PD-CIND defined as clinical dementia rating of 0.5 but without dementia. Aβ42 signif ↓ in PD-CIND & PDD cf controls. T tau levels unchanged in 3 PD groups. P tau signif ↓ in PD & PD-CIND cf controls. 15% PD, 29% PD-CIND & 45% PDD abnormal ↑ P tau/ Aβ42, cf >90% aMCI & AD.
<b>(Bibl et al., 2010)</b>	C=40 (64.5 yrs); PDD=21 (73.2); DLB=15 (71.4); AD=45 (70.9)	Aβ42, total tau (ELISA Innotest); Aβ peptide patterns Aβ-SDS-PAGE/immunoblot	Aβ42=0.79, 0.51, 0.37, 0.41 ng/mL (C, PDD, DLB, AD) Total tau=0.23, 0.31, 0.37, 0.62 ng/mL	PDD signif ↓ Aβ42 & Aβ42% & ↑ Aβ40% cf controls. ↑ Aβ40% & ↓ Aβ42 in DLB vs PDD. Low Aβ42/tau sensitive marker for AD.

			A $\beta$ 42%=11.7, 7.5, 7.1, 4.4 A $\beta$ 40%=0.8, 1.1, 1.8, 0.9	$\uparrow$ A $\beta$ 40% potential marker of DLB.
<b>(Vranova et al., 2010)</b>	C=30 (58.8 yrs); PD=32 (59.9)	A $\beta$ 42, total tau (ELISA Biosource, Innogenetics);cystatin C, clusterin ELISA, Biovendor)	Total tau=194 vs 225 ng/L (C vs PD) Clusterin=9004 vs 4668 IU/L	Signif $\uparrow$ tau PD vs C. Signif $\uparrow$ tau, tau/ A $\beta$ 42 & clusterin in PD with symptoms <2 yrs cf > 2 yrs. May be due to high levels of neurodegeneration.
<b>(Alves et al., 2010)</b>	C=36 (66.4 yrs); PD=109 (67.2); AD=20 (68.5)	A $\beta$ 38, 40 & 42 (Meso Scale Discovery kit by electrochemiluminiscence); Total & P181 tau (ELISA, Innogenetics); Full neuropsychological testing	A $\beta$ 42=445, 362, 208 pg/mL (C, PD, AD) A $\beta$ 40=7070, 5973, 6104 pg/mL A $\beta$ 38=629, 484, 514 pg/mL Total tau=228, 224, 435 pg/mL P tau=51, 58, 89 pg/ml	Drug-naïve PD patients. Signif $\downarrow$ A $\beta$ 42, A $\beta$ 40 & A $\beta$ 38 in PD cf controls. No difference in tau (ANCOVA with age, sex & education as covariates). Signif ass between A $\beta$ 42, A $\beta$ 40 & A $\beta$ 38 and memory in multiple sequential regression (not attentional-executive or visuospatial domains). Tau did not correlate with cognitive scores.
<b>(Siderowf et al., 2010)</b>	PDND=45 (73 yrs)	A $\beta$ 42, total tau, P181 tau (Luminex platform with Innogenetics); Longitudinal f/u and DRS-2	Baseline A $\beta$ 42= 224 pg/mL Total tau=52 pg/mL P tau=18 pg/mL All patients had 1 year f/u, 20 had 2 year f/u and 3 evaluated at 3 years.	At baseline, no association between CSF & cognition. $\downarrow$ A $\beta$ 42 strongly associated with cognitive $\downarrow$ over time. A $\beta$ 42 $\leq$ 192 had $\downarrow$ in DRS score that was 6.1 points greater than those > 192. Largest effect size for attention, then conceptualization then memory subscore. $\downarrow$ A $\beta$ 42 in ApoE4 carriers.
<b>(Mulugeta et al., 2011b)</b>	C=12 (73.5 yrs); PDD=20 (73); DLB=23 (74); AD=30 (75.5)	A $\beta$ 38, 40 & 42 (Meso Scale Discovery kit by electrochemiluminiscence); Total & P181 tau (ELISA, Innogenetics)	A $\beta$ 42=337, 287, 223, 192 pg/mL (C, PDD, DLB, AD) A $\beta$ 40=8286, 5036, 5507, 5461 pg/mL A $\beta$ 38=635, 404, 385, 440 pg/mL Total tau=250, 303, 303, 382 pg/mL P tau=58, 57, 60, 86 pg/ml	No difference between PDD & DLB. A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 38 strongest marker for differentiation of AD & DLB. Age & MMSE score correlated with total tau, A $\beta$ 38 & A $\beta$ 40 in all subjects. A $\beta$ 38 correlated with disease duration. A $\beta$ 42 correlated with UPDRS.
<b>(Shi et al., 2011)</b>	C=137 (58.9 yrs); PD=126 (63.8); AD=50 (68.1); MSA=32 (60.3)	A $\beta$ 42, total tau, P tau (ELISA Innogenetics); Flt3 ligand,	A $\beta$ 42=404, 333, 209, 312 pg/mL (C, PD, AD, MSA)	T & P tau tended to $\uparrow$ with age. A $\beta$ 42 & T/P tau $\downarrow$ in PD & MSA cf

		fractalkine, DJ-1, $\alpha$ -syn	Total tau=62, 55, 95, 47 pg/mL P tau=29, 21, 57, 22 pg/ml	controls. Fractalkine/A $\beta$ 42 $\uparrow$ with UPDRS score. $\uparrow$ Flt3 differentiated PD from MSA.
<b>(Mulugeta et al., 2011a)</b>	C=12 (74.1 yrs ); PDD=21 (73.6); DLB=24 (74 yrs ); AD=50 (74.4)	A $\beta$ 38, 40 & 42 (Meso Scale Discovery kit by electrochemiluminiscence); Total & P181 tau (ELISA, Innogenetics); sAPP $\alpha$ & sAPP $\beta$	A $\beta$ 42=479, 264, 262, 275 pg/mL (C, PDD, DLB, AD) A $\beta$ 40=7835, ?, 5833, 5297 pg/mL A $\beta$ 38=785, 366, 384, 814 pg/mL Total tau=269, 308, 297, 600 pg/mL P tau=58, 66, 63, 89 pg/ml	No signif differences in APP between groups, but APP correlated with MMSE. In LBD, signif correlations between sAPP $\alpha$ and sAPP $\beta$ with all A $\beta$ species & T-Tau, but not P-tau.
<b>(Andersson et al., 2011)</b>	PDD=17 (73 yrs ); DLB=47 (76); AD=150 (75)	A $\beta$ 42, total tau, P tau (ELISA Innogenetics)	A $\beta$ 42=566, 402, 409 (PDD, DLB, AD) ng/L T tau=314, 434, 625 ng/L P tau=51, 56, 78 ng/L	DLB $\uparrow$ T tau & $\downarrow$ A $\beta$ 42 cf PDD. In DLB, not PDD, CSF proteins correlated with MMSE memory scores.
<b>*(Compta et al., 2011a)</b>	C=9 (70 yrs); PDND=19 (69); PDD=19 (73)	A $\beta$ 42, total tau, P tau (ELISA Innogenetics); tau genotypes	A $\beta$ 42=667, 570, 389 pg/mL (c, PDND, PDD) T tau=248, 217, 358 pg/mL P tau=34, 28, 35 pg/mL	rs242557 tau gene polymorphism associated with $\uparrow$ T & P tau but only in those with A $\beta$ 42 < 500pg/mL. H1/H1 carriers $\uparrow$ P tau in PDD only. No signif difference in A $\beta$ 42 levels in ApoE4 carriers and non-carriers.
<b>(Parnetti et al., 2011)</b>	C= 32 (61.9 yrs); PD=38 (69.3); DLB=32 (71.4); AD=48 (68.7); FTD=31 (64.3)	A $\beta$ 42, total tau, P tau (ELISA Innogenetics); $\alpha$ syn (SuperSignal ELISA)	A $\beta$ 42=69, 43, 18, 35, 15 (C, PD, DLB, AD, FTD) ng/mL T tau=190, 232, 341, 734, 424 pg/mL P tau=35, 42, 49, 98, 59 pg/mL $\alpha$ syn=69, 43, 18, 35, 15 mg/mL	$\alpha$ syn levels signif $\downarrow$ in pathological groups cf controls. Inverse correlation between $\alpha$ syn & T tau. In PD, A $\beta$ 42, T & P tau levels not different to controls. T tau/ $\alpha$ syn & P tau/ $\alpha$ syn $\downarrow$ showed best discrimination of PD.
<b>(Mollenhauer et al., 2011b)</b>	C=23 (73 yrs); PD=273 (72); DLB=66 (72); MSA=15 (70); PSP=8 (72)	A $\beta$ 42, total tau (ELISA Innogenetics); $\alpha$ syn (ELISA system mSA1/Syn1-BB)	A $\beta$ 42=499, 474, 378, 460, 529 (C, PD, DLB, MSA, PSP) pg/mL T tau=267, 180, 192, 146, 154 pg/mL $\alpha$ syn=2.2, 1.3, 1.3, 1.1, 1.8 $\mu$ g/ $\mu$ L	$\alpha$ syn signif different across groups. The only signif predictor for $\alpha$ syn was clinical diagnosis. $\alpha$ syn < 1.6 $\mu$ g/ $\mu$ L predicted synucleinopathies with 90.7% accuracy.
<b>(Leverenz et al., 2011)</b>	PDND=22 (68.7 yrs)	A $\beta$ 42, total tau (Luminex- based MAP); BDNF;	A $\beta$ 42=544 pg/mL T tau=137 pg/mL	Correlation between processing speed & A $\beta$ 42, A $\beta$ 42/t-tau & BDNF.

		Neuropsychological testing	BDNF=285 pg/mL	Signif association between semantic fluency (vegetable) & Aβ42/t-tau. Effects attenuated by age.
<b>(Hall et al., 2012)</b>	C=107 (70 yrs); PD=90 (63); PDD=33 (76); DLB=70 (74); AD=48 (78); PSP=45 (70); MSA=48 (64); CBD=12 (71)	Aβ42, T-tau, P tau & αsyn (Luminex MAP); NFL	Aβ42=630, 612, 559, 447, 362, 576, 589, 595 ng/mL (C, PD, PDD, DLB, AD, PSP, MSA, CBD) T tau= 473, 371, 365, 413, 840, 429, 528, 611 ng/mL P tau=49, 46, 52, 51, 103, 43, 42, 46 ng/mL αsyn= 67, 55, 59, 59, 94, 70, 56, 56 ng/mL	NFL associated with disease severity. Age correlated with αsyn in PD, controls & MSA. PDD ↑ P tau & NFL cf PD. PD & PDD ↓ T tau cf controls; PD ↓ P tau. PD, PDD, DLB & MSA signif ↓ αsyn cf controls; AD signif ↑ cf other groups. NFL ↑ PSP, MSA & CBD cf others.
<b>*(Compta et al., 2012)</b>	C=12 (71.5 yrs); PDND=18 (69); PDD=15 (73)	Aβ42, total tau, P tau (ELISA Innogenetics); MRI	Aβ42=659, 579, 348 pg/mL (C, PDND, PDD) Total tau=237, 218, 395 pg/mL P tau=33, 28, 35 pg/ml	Signif negative association between grey matter volume & T/P tau; signif positive association for grey matter volume & Aβ42 in whole PD group for mostly frontal & temporal structures.
<b>(Aasly et al., 2012)</b>	Asymptomatic LRRK2 carriers=18 (51 yrs); LRRK2 + PD=8 (67)	Aβ42, total tau, P tau (ELISA Innogenetics); Dopaminergic PETs	Aβ42=601 vs 504 (carriers vs LRRK2+PD) pg/mL T tau=36 vs 24 pg/mL P tau=21 vs 17 pg/mL	↓ Aβ42 & tau correlated with ↓ striatal DA function on PET. Signif association between Aβ42 & 18F-6-fluoro-L-dopa uptake.
<b>(Jellinger, 2012)</b>	C=17 (68.7 yrs); PD-NT=6; PD-TD=6 (mean age all PD 63.2); AD=27 (68.7)	Aβ42, total tau (ELISA Innogenetics)	Aβ42=658, 394, 147, 376 pg/mL (C, PD-NT, PD-TD, AD) T tau=223, 147, 193, 760 pg/mL Tau/ Aβ42=29, 45, 19.3, 49.5	Cortex tau/Aβ42 signif ↑ in PD-NT & AD cf controls and TD-PD. Note- difficult to see how this calculated, & also Aβ42 ↓ in PD-TD (lower than AD & PD-NT).
<b>(Vranova et al., 2012)</b>	C=19 (56.2 yrs); PD-EDO=17 (48.9); PD-NT=16 (65.6); PD-TD=15 (67.3); AD=18 (68.4)	Aβ42, total tau (ELISA Innogenetics); tau/ Aβ42	Aβ42=830, 809, 631, 791, 423 ng/L (C, PD-EDO, PD-NT, PD-TD, AD) T tau=209, 235, 435, 263, 554 ng/L Tau/ Aβ42=0.28, 0.29, 0.55, 0.34, 1.5	PD-NT signif ↑ tau & tau/ Aβ42 cf controls, PD-EDO & PD-TD. In PD-NT, tau correlated with H&Y stage. No signif difference between AD & PD-NT in terms of tau or tau/ Aβ42.
<b>(Alves et al., 2013)</b>	PD-PIGD=39 (67 yrs); PD-TD=60 (67.5)	Aβ38, 40 & 42 (Meso Scale Discovery kit by electrochemiluminescence)	Aβ42=307 vs 408 pg/mL (PIGD vs TD) Aβ40=5664 vs 6453 pg/mL Aβ38=390 vs 578 pg/mL	PIGD signif ↓ Aβ42 & Aβ38 cf TD. PIGD signif ↓ all Aβ peptides cf controls. PIGD severity inversely associated with Aβ42 & Aβ38.

A $\beta$ 42 & A $\beta$ 38 associated with lower limb bradykinesia.

C= Controls; PDND= PD non-demented; PDD= PD dementia; PD-CIND= PD cognitively impaired non-demented; PD-NT= PD non tremor-dominant; PD-TD= PD tremor dominant; PD-EDO= early disease onset; PIGD= postural instability gait difficulty; DLB= dementia with Lewy bodies; AD= Alzheimer's disease; MSA= multiple system atrophy; PSP= progressive supranuclear palsy; FTD= frontotemporal dementia; NPH= normal pressure hydrocephalus; VD= vascular dementia; aMCI= amnesic mild cognitive impairment; UPDRS= Unified PD Rating Scale; H&Y= Hoehn & Yahr stage; MMSE= mini mental state examination; MODA= Milan Overall Dementia Assessment; NPI= Neuropsychiatric Inventory; DRS-2= Dementia Rating Scale; AST= aspartate aminotransferase; ApoE= apolipoprotein; sAPP= soluble isoforms of amyloid precursor protein; NFL= neurofilament light chain; DA= dopamine; \*= studies with patients from same cohort; cf=compared with.

With respect to cognitive impairment in PD, there is consistent evidence that there are differences in CSF markers in those with PDD compared to controls or PDND subjects, although one small early study that only measured total tau and aspartate aminotransferase (AST) did not find differences between these groups (Steur *et al.*, 1998). In DLB and PDD, CSF findings in DLB were similar to that in AD, with higher T-tau and lower A $\beta$ 42 in DLB than PDD, lending support to the hypothesis that these patients may have a larger AD burden (Andersson *et al.*, 2011). In addition, A $\beta$ 42 and T-tau levels may to be related to dementia severity and duration in DLB but not PDD, with one study reporting a negative association between CSF A $\beta$ 42 and disease duration and T-tau and cognitive scores (Parnetti *et al.*, 2008).

The first study to accurately characterise A $\beta$ 42 and T-tau in a cohort with PDD was in 2006, where A $\beta$ 42 was significantly lower and tau levels were higher compared to PDND and control subjects and to controls, respectively (Mollenhauer *et al.*, 2006b). This pattern was most marked in the subgroup of PDD patients who were carriers of the ApoE3 genotype; this is in contrast with findings in the general population, where ApoE4 genotype predicts lower A $\beta$ 42 levels (Morris *et al.*, 2010), and may have been due to the small numbers studied. Of note, however, PDD was diagnosed only with a MMSE score of less than 25 (Mollenhauer *et al.*, 2006b). In the next study that compared A $\beta$ 42, total and P181-tau in controls, PDND, PDD (n=18), DLB and AD subjects, A $\beta$ 42 was decreased in all groups compared with controls, but no difference was seen between PDND and PDD. Total and P181-tau were not significantly different between the control, PD or PDD groups, with no correlations between measures of global cognitive function and CSF markers (Parnetti *et al.*, 2008). In contrast, a further study found associations between neuropsychological deficits and CSF markers (Compta *et al.*, 2009). In addition to a graduation in A $\beta$ 42 levels from high (controls) to intermediate (PDND) to low (PDD) and greater total plus P181-tau in PDD compared to PDND subjects, increased tau levels were associated with memory, naming and visuospatial deficits, with lower A $\beta$ 42 found in those with impairments of verbal fluency (Compta *et al.*, 2009). A $\beta$ 42 correlated with phonetic fluency in PD patients with and without dementia (PDND), leading the authors to postulate that underlying Alzheimer-type pathology in PD was associated with cortical cognitive function, and that low CSF A $\beta$ 42 with impaired phonetic fluency in PDND could represent an early

marker of cognitive dysfunction. In the same group of patients, certain tau gene polymorphisms defined raised total and P181-tau levels, but only in the presence of low CSF A $\beta$ 42 values (Compta *et al.*, 2011a), with greater tau levels negatively correlated with frontal and temporal grey matter volume on MRI (Compta *et al.*, 2012). These changes are consistent with findings from the AD literature (Buongiorno *et al.*, 2011). In a community cohort of 109 *de novo* PDND patients, CSF A $\beta$ 42, A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 38 levels were reduced compared to controls, although no difference in tau was found (Alves *et al.*, 2010). In contrast to the results from Compta *et al.*, these early stage PD subjects did not display correlations between tau and neuropsychological assessments, but A $\beta$  peptides were significantly associated with impairments on the memory domain in multiple sequential regression, implying that A $\beta$  metabolism is altered early in the disease course and may influence the heterogeneity of the pattern and course of cognitive decline associated with PD (Alves *et al.*, 2010). In comparison, a more recent study with 22 non-demented PD patients showed no correlations between A $\beta$ 42 or total tau and memory, processing speed or executive function after controlling for age, but did demonstrate a significant association between category fluency (naming vegetables) and A $\beta$ 42/T-tau ratio (Leverenz *et al.*, 2011). These results should be interpreted with caution due to the small sample size and the possible inconsistencies in the results, with category fluency (naming animals) revealing no relationship with any CSF parameters. A much larger cross-sectional study of 345 individuals compared CSF A $\beta$ 42, T-tau and P-tau levels in controls, amnesic MCI, AD, PD, PD cognitively impaired not demented (PD-CIND) and PDD patients (Montine *et al.*, 2010). Progressively lower A $\beta$ 42 levels were found in PD, PD-CIND and PDD patients, whereas average T-tau was unchanged and P181-tau levels were decreased compared to controls. One-third of PD-CIND and a half of PDD patients had the biomarker “signature” of AD (with an increased P181-tau/A $\beta$ 42 ratio) compared to over 90% of those with amnesic MCI or AD, leading the authors to propose that abnormal A $\beta$ 42 metabolism may be a common mechanism for PD-CIND and PDD.

The only published longitudinal study to date to look at the relationship between CSF biomarkers and cognitive decline in PD showed a strong association between reduced A $\beta$ 42 and cognitive decline over one year follow-up (Siderowf *et al.*, 2010). No

association was seen between T-tau and P-tau and cognitive decline. Although at baseline assessment there was no association between biomarkers and cognition, subjects with baseline CSF A $\beta$ 42 levels of  $\leq 192$  pg/mL (measured using Luminex platform) were at greatest risk of deterioration in cognitive scores over time, exhibiting a decline of an average of 5.8 more points per year on the Mattis Dementia Rating Scale (DRS-2) compared to subjects above this cut-off, after adjusting for age, disease duration and baseline cognitive status. Low CSF A $\beta$ 42 was associated with decline in multiple subscales of the DRS-2, with the largest effect size seen for attention, then conceptualization, then memory subscores. An accompanying editorial highlighted the need for longitudinal studies and better defined more homogeneous cohorts to validate these findings (Aarsland and Ravina, 2010).

Lastly, very recent studies in PD have examined the relationship of different phenotypes and CSF parameters (Alves *et al.*, 2010; Jellinger, 2012; Vranova *et al.*, 2012; Alves *et al.*, 2013). PD participants with a non-tremor dominant phenotype seem to have a pattern of CSF markers similar to changes seen in AD, with significantly higher T-tau levels and T-tau/A $\beta$ 42 ratio compared to tremor-dominant (TD) disease, early-onset disease or control participants (Vranova *et al.*, 2012). In non-tremor dominant participants, T-tau correlated with disease severity, as measured by Hoehn and Yahr scale (Vranova *et al.*, 2012). Although there was a trend towards reduced A $\beta$ 42 in this phenotype, this did not reach statistical significance. In comparison, newly diagnosed unmedicated PD participants with the postural instability gait difficulty (PIGD) phenotype at diagnosis had lower A $\beta$ 42 and A $\beta$ 38 levels compared with a TD presentation (Alves *et al.*, 2013). These A $\beta$  peptides were associated with PIGD subscore severity and lower limb bradykinesia, suggesting that A $\beta$  metabolism may influence motor function in addition to cognitive consequences even in early stage disease (Alves *et al.*, 2013). Tau levels were not reported in this study.

In conclusion, studies of CSF in PD have been largely cross-sectional in nature (with the exception of Siderowf's study), and frequently limited by small sample size and heterogeneous study groups. Overall, low CSF A $\beta$ 42 levels have consistently been associated with cognitive impairments in non-demented PD subjects, possibly related to AD and temporal lobe pathology. Results for tau and cognition have been conflicting, with some studies suggesting an increase, others no change and some

suggesting lower tau levels in those with PD and cognitive impairment. Alzheimer-type changes in the CSF seem to correlate with neuropsychological assessments of posteriorly mediated cortical impairments, although further work is required to clarify these findings with longitudinal evaluation over time.

Therefore, as part of the ICICLE-PD study, we aimed to determine whether certain CSF parameters may predict cognition in a homogeneous, well-defined cohort of early PD patients. We hypothesised that low CSF amyloid- $\beta$  would be associated with cognitive decline, and that low CSF amyloid- $\beta$  would be associated with more posteriorly-mediated cognitive dysfunction.

### **3.4 Specific CSF methodology**

Lumbar puncture (LP) was performed on a subset of consenting participants as part of the ICICLE-PD study, within a four month period after the initial assessment. To standardise collections, all LPs were performed between 8 and 10am after an overnight fast and whilst withholding Parkinson's medications, as some biomarkers may be altered by circadian rhythms and by medication use (Teunissen *et al.*, 2009). LPs were performed in the left lateral or sitting position, depending on the flexibility of the patient and presence of tremor. After appropriate local anaesthesia with lignocaine, a 20 gauge needle in L3-L5 was used to collect up to 10ml of CSF. Samples that were free of visual contamination by blood were centrifuged within 15 minutes of collection at 2000g at 4°C for 10 minutes, with the supernatant then divided into aliquots of 0.25mL and frozen at -80°C in labelled polypropylene cryovials. These cryovials have low protein binding potential and should not influence biomarker outcome (Teunissen *et al.*, 2009). Matched serum samples were taken simultaneously and centrifuged at 4000g at 19°C for 10 minutes. CSF analysis was kindly provided by Professor Brit Mollenhauer and her team in Gottingen, Germany. Frozen samples were transported on dry ice without thawing, and immediately analysed for A $\beta$ 42, A $\beta$ 40, T-tau, tau phosphorylated at amino acid 181 (P181-tau) and total  $\alpha$ -synuclein ( $\alpha$ syn). Samples were analysed using commercially available assays (tau protein: INNOTEST hTAU Antigen; p-tau: INNOTESTTM PHOSPHO-TAU(181P); A $\beta$ 42: INNOTEST TH  $\beta$ -AMYLOID (1-42) all Fujirebio Inc/Innogenetics, Gent, Belgium; p-tau and A $\beta$ 40: hAmyloid  $\beta$ 40 Elisa ABETA GmbH, Heidelberg, Germany) (Mollenhauer *et al.*, 2006a). CSF  $\alpha$ syn values were determined as published previously with slight modifications (Mollenhauer *et al.*,

2008; Kruse *et al.*, 2012). Capture antibody MJF-1 clone 12.1 (kindly provided by Liyu Wu, Epitomics, Burlingame, CA, USA) was used at 3µg/ml. Detection was performed using Anti-α-Synuclein clone 42/α-Synuclein (BD Biosciences, Heidelberg, Germany) at 1µg/ml. An electrochemiluminescence-based detection system as developed by Meso Scale Discovery™ was used instead of classical ELISAs, due to its higher sensitivity and smaller amount of CSF required (Kruse *et al.*, 2012). αsyn standards were used in the range of 6 - 25000 pg/ml, with lower limits of detection was less than 10pg/ml. Intra-assay coefficients of variation were usually less the 20%, in most cases even less than 10%.

### **3.5 Statistical analysis**

Statistical analyses were performed using SPSS 19.0 (SPSS, Chicago, IL). Data were examined for normality with visual histograms and the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. Means were compared using unpaired t-tests if normally distributed or the Mann-Whitney test for non-normally distributed data. Pearson Chi-square tests were used to compare between-group distribution of proportions. Pearson correlation (for normally distributed data) or Spearman's rank correlation coefficients (non-normal) were calculated to assess bivariate associations between neuropsychological tests and CSF parameters. If these were significant or reached near-significance, correlations were examined using scatter plots to determine whether the relationship was linear. A linear regression model (forced entry) was then used to control for age and education, as these co-variables are known to influence cognition. Due to exploratory nature of the study, we did not adjust for multiple comparisons; if a parameter was significant, even if by chance, it was felt that it merited further analysis (Rothman, 1990; Perneger, 1998; Feise, 2002).

In the second step of analysis, regression models were used to examine the contribution of CSF markers (independent variables) to cognition (dependent variable) and to determine whether CSF markers were an independent predictor of cognition. MoCA (global cognitive function), One Touch Stockings (OTS) of Cambridge (executive function), semantic fluency (executive domain), Power of Attention (PoA, attention domain), pattern recognition memory (PRM), paired associates learning (PAL) (both memory domains), pentagon score (visuospatial function) and total language score were analysed separately. Generally, one test from each domain was examined,

although semantic fluency was investigated in addition to OTS as there is evidence that impairment in this test predicts subsequent PDD (Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2007a). Both PAL plus PRM were assessed as part of the memory domain, as PRM was associated with A $\beta$ 42 using bivariate correlations and has been shown to be sensitive to temporal lobe damage, thus more 'posteriorly' mediated (Owen *et al.*, 1995b). PAL was also explored as part of the memory domain as this test is sensitive to both temporal and frontal damage and has been shown to predict Alzheimer's disease with a high degree of accuracy (Swainson *et al.*, 2001; Blackwell *et al.*, 2004). Age (Hughes *et al.*, 2000; Aarsland *et al.*, 2001; Hobson and Meara, 2004; Aarsland *et al.*, 2007b; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2007a; Uc *et al.*, 2009; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2009a) and education (Green *et al.*, 2002) influence cognition in PD and in the general population. Other potential contributors to cognition include motor phenotype (Aarsland *et al.*, 2003a; Alves *et al.*, 2006; Burn *et al.*, 2006; Uc *et al.*, 2009), disease severity (Hughes *et al.*, 2000; Aarsland *et al.*, 2001; Green *et al.*, 2002; Uc *et al.*, 2009), dopaminergic medication (Kehagia *et al.*, 2010) and presence of depression (Starkstein *et al.*, 1992). Therefore, age and education were controlled for in each model, and the associations of each cognitive test with motor phenotype score, UPDRS III score, LEDD and GDS were examined using bivariate correlation and controlled for if there was a significant or near significant association ( $p < 0.1$ ). These clinical predictors were entered in the first level of the model using forced entry, then A $\beta$ 42, A $\beta$ 40, P-tau and  $\alpha$ -synuclein ('mechanistic' predictors) were entered in the second level using a stepwise method, to determine which, if any of the CSF parameters made a significant independent contribution to cognition. Collinearity diagnostics were inspected to test for multi-collinearity, with an average variance inflation factor (VIF) greater than one considered problematic. The Durbin-Watson statistic was used to identify autocorrelation (values less than one or greater than three were a cause for concern). In all regression models, standardised residuals were inspected to ensure they were approximately normally distributed and between  $\pm 3.0$ . There was no evidence of cases exerting undue influence in any model, as evidenced by Cook's distances ( $D < 1$ ).

In the final stage of analysis, the cases who were defined as level 2 mild cognitive impairment (PD-MCI) at 1.5 standard deviations (SDs) as per the methods outlined in Chapter 2 were compared to those who were cognitively normal (PD-CN) with respect

to the CSF values. The mean values of A $\beta$ 42, A $\beta$ 40, T-tau, P-tau and  $\alpha$ -synuclein in those with PD-MCI versus PD-CN were initially compared using t-test or Mann-Whitney test, depending on the distribution of the parameters. A binary logistic regression model (forced entry) was then used to control for age and education. For the model to be a significant fit of the data, the -2 x log-likelihood statistic and its associated chi-square statistic were < 0.05. Residuals were examined to ensure model fit, and standardised residuals > 3 were inspected. There was no evidence of cases exerting undue influence in any model, as evidenced by Cook's distances ( $D < 1$ ). Model fit was reported using Cox & Snell's  $R^2$  and Nagelkerke's  $R^2$ .

### **3.6 Results**

#### ***3.6.1 General and clinical characteristics***

67 PD participants consented to lumbar puncture, 56 from Newcastle and 11 from Cambridge. Comparison with those who did not consent is shown in Table 3-3. The sample was representative with the exception of years of education and depression scores. Those who did not consent scored slightly worse on digit vigilance, paired associates learning and pattern recognition memory cognitive tests. No samples were discarded due to blood contamination.

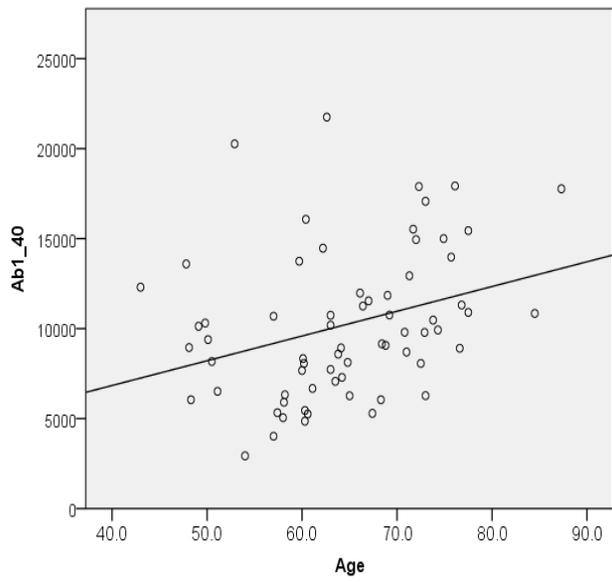
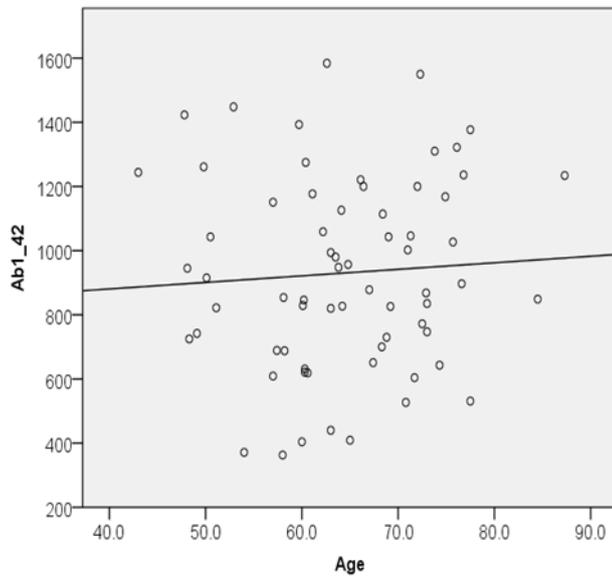
Table 3-3 Characteristics of participants who did and did not consent to lumbar puncture

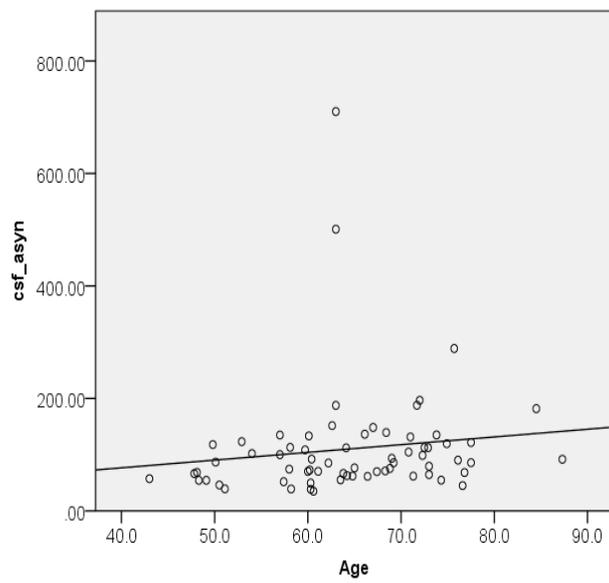
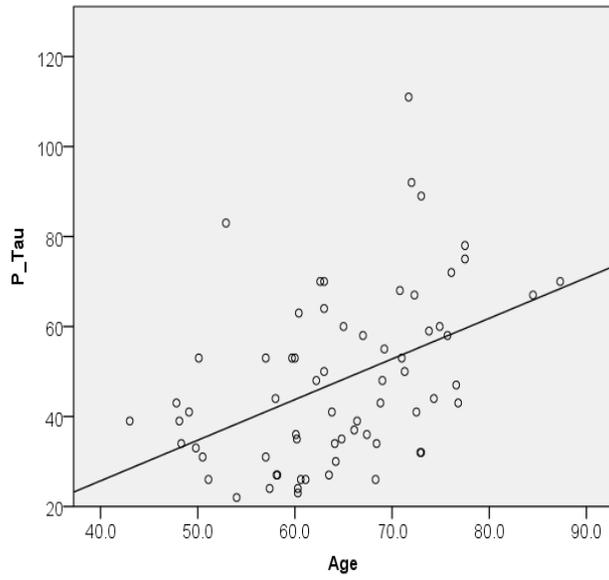
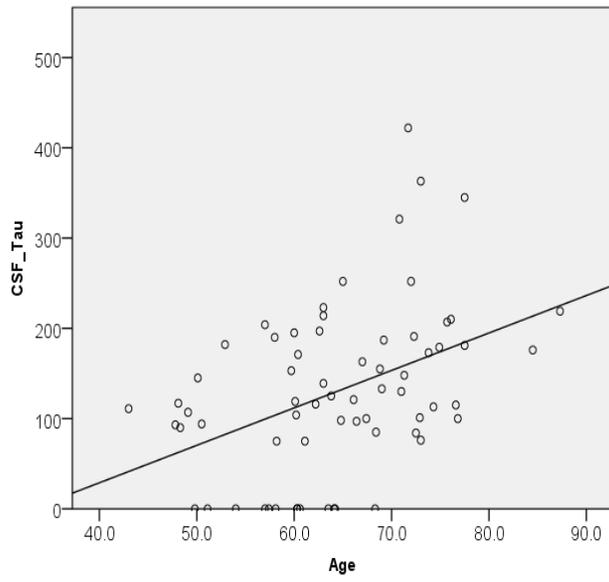
Characteristic	CSF +ve (n=67)	CSF -ve (n=152)	P value
Age (years) <sup>a</sup>	64.5 (9.4)	66.6 (9.8)	0.141
Male gender <sup>b</sup>	39 (58.2%)	101 (66.4%)	0.242
Disease duration (mo)	5.3 (5.6)	5.6 (4.7)	0.249
MDS UPDRS III	26.8 (11.8)	27.9 (11.9)	0.513
LEDD (mg/d)	140.3 (98.1)	194.6 (170.3)	0.071
Education (years)	13.5 (3.9)	12.5 (3.5)	<b>0.035</b>
GDS-15	2.4 (2.5)	3.1 (2.7)	<b>0.025</b>
MoCA <sup>c</sup>	25.2 (3.3)	25.5 (3.7)	0.314
MMSE	28.8 (1.1)	28.6 (1.3)	0.439
Phonemic fluency	11.3 (4.6)	12.0 (4.8)	0.386
Semantic fluency	22.0 (5.8)	20.7 (7.0)	0.062
PoA	1341.7 (163.0)	1396.1 (257.9)	0.261
Digit vigilance	94.4 (11.1)	91.0 (13.3)	<b>0.003</b>
PAL	1.82 (0.7)	2.1 (0.9)	<b>0.004</b>
PRM	20.7 (2.6)	19.2 (3.3)	<b>0.001</b>
SRM	15.6 (2.1)	15.2 (2.3)	0.331
OTS	14.5 (3.8)	14.5 (4.3)	0.798
Pentagon	1.9 (0.4)	1.8 (0.4)	0.219
Language	4.5 (0.7)	4.5 (0.7)	0.507

Data shown are mean (SD) or number (%). <sup>a</sup>Unpaired t-test, <sup>b</sup>Pearson Chi-Square; the remainder used Mann-Whitney test. <sup>c</sup>MoCA completed in 195 PD participants. PoA= power of attention; PAL= paired associates learning; PRM= pattern recognition memory; SRM= spatial recognition memory; OTS= one touch stockings of Cambridge.

Scatter plots of the CSF analytes with age are shown in Figure 3-2. It was noted that there were two outliers in the  $\alpha$ -syn data. One of these was noted to be a 'reddish sample' at analysis, and therefore analysis was performed with and without this to determine whether this unduly influenced the statistics. The findings below are with the outlier included, and any differences in the significance levels without it are reported in addition. The lower limit of detection for T-tau was <75 pg/ml, therefore these samples were coded as 0 pg/ml.

Figure 3-2 Scatter plots demonstrating the relationship between age and CSF markers





As expected, there were significant positive correlations between A $\beta$ 42 and A $\beta$ 40 ( $r=0.698$ ,  $p<0.001$ , Pearson's correlation coefficient) and T- and P181-tau ( $0.902$ ,  $p<0.001$ , Spearman's rho).  $\alpha$ -syn also correlated with A $\beta$ 42 ( $r=0.264$ ,  $p=0.031$ ), A $\beta$ 40 ( $r=0.455$ ,  $p<0.001$ ), T-tau ( $r=0.530$ ,  $P<0.001$ ) and P181-tau ( $r=0.571$ ,  $p<0.001$ ) (all Spearman's rho). In keeping with previous studies, there were significant correlations between age and T-tau and P181-tau ( $r=0.412$  and  $r=0.466$ , respectively,  $p<0.001$ , Spearman's rho), age and A $\beta$ 40 ( $r=0.315$ ,  $p=0.009$ , Pearson's correlation coefficient) and age and  $\alpha$ syn ( $r=0.278$ ,  $p=0.023$ , Spearman's rho) (Parnetti *et al.*, 2011; Shi *et al.*, 2011; Hall *et al.*, 2012). None of the CSF markers correlated with measures of disease duration or severity, the latter as measured by the MDS-UPDRS. 15 subjects (22.4%) had pathological P181-tau levels above normal ( $>60$  pg/ml), and five (7.5%) had A $\beta$ 42  $<500$  pg/ml. Raw CSF values are displayed in Table 3-4, including all PD participants and separate values for males and females. With the exception of  $\alpha$ -syn, which showed a slightly higher mean value in females compared to males, there were no significant differences between each gender.

Table 3-4 Raw CSF marker values in all PD participants, and males vs females

	PD all (n=67)	Male (n=39)	Female (n=28)	P value (M vs F)
<b>Age (years)</b>	64.5 (9.4)	65.7 (10.5)	62.7 (7.3)	0.181 <sup>a</sup>
<b>A<math>\beta</math>42 (pg/ml)</b>	930.5 (299.7)	935.2 (285.0)	923.8 (324.3)	0.879 <sup>a</sup>
<b>A<math>\beta</math>40 (pg/ml)</b>	10203 (4092)	10102 (3833)	10342 (4497)	0.815 <sup>a</sup>
<b>T-tau (pg/ml)</b>	130.4 (93.2)	127.4 (95.9)	134.6 (90.8)	0.358
<b>P-tau (pg/ml)</b>	47.8 (19.1)	47.0 (19.7)	48.9 (18.6)	0.620
<b><math>\alpha</math>syn (pg/ml)</b>	110.2 (100.2)	100.3 (83.7)	124.0 (119.8)	<b>0.033</b>

Values are mean (SD). <sup>a</sup>Unpaired t-test, the remainder used Mann-Whitney test.

### 3.6.2 CSF and cognition

Associations between CSF analytes and cognitive variables were then examined using simple bivariate correlations, and are shown in Table 3-5. If a significant or near significant value was found, scatter plots were examined and a linear regression model

was used to control for age and education to determine if this significance remained (Table 3-6).

There was a significant association between A $\beta$ 42 and PRM ( $r=0.285$ ,  $p=0.021$ , Spearman's rho), and there was a trend towards an association between A $\beta$ 42 and MoCA and A $\beta$ 42 and phonemic fluency ( $r=0.226$ ,  $p=0.075$ , Spearman's rho;  $r=-0.220$ ,  $p=0.073$ , Pearson's correlation coefficient, respectively). Further trends were found between A $\beta$ 40 and total language score ( $r=0.218$ ,  $p=0.085$ , Spearman's rho) and P-tau and semantic fluency ( $r=-0.211$ ,  $p=0.086$ , Spearman's rho). Scatter plots of these associations are shown in Figure 3-3.

Table 3-5 Bivariate analysis for CSF and cognitive variables

	CSF									
	A $\beta$ 42 $r^a$	$p$	A $\beta$ 40 $r^a$	$p$	T-tau $r^b$	$p$	P-tau $r^b$	$p$	$\alpha$ syn $r^b$	$p$
MoCA <sup>b</sup>	.226	<b>.075</b>	.107	.405	-.196	.124	-.132	.303	.033	.799
PoA <sup>a</sup>	-.110	.374	-.020	.871	.124	.316	.126	.311	.097	.435
Digit vigilance <sup>b</sup>	.029	.814	-.044	.723	-.072	.565	-.108	.386	-.107	.387
Phonemic <sup>a</sup>	-.220	<b>.073</b>	-.110	.374	.090	.471	.030	.809	.001	.996
Semantic <sup>a</sup>	.131	.292	-.072	.561	-.169	.171	-.211	<b>.086</b>	.017	.891
OTS <sup>b</sup>	.102	.418	.114	.367	.007	.955	.009	.942	.060	.636
PRM <sup>b</sup>	.285	<b>.021</b>	.188	.134	-.054	.671	-.023	.855	-.058	.648
SRM <sup>a</sup>	.182	.146	.126	.317	-.036	.778	-.061	.631	-.149	.235
Pentagons <sup>b</sup>	.061	.624	.015	.901	-.087	.483	-.111	.372	-.026	.832
Language <sup>b</sup>	.188	.141	.218	<b>.085</b>	-.024	.854	.038	.765	.172	.177

<sup>a</sup>Normally distributed data; <sup>b</sup>non-normally distributed; r value using Pearson's correlation coefficient if both variables are normally distributed and Spearman's rho if not. MoCA= Montreal Cognitive Assessment; PoA= power of attention; phonemic= phonemic fluency; semantic= semantic fluency; OTS= one touch stockings of Cambridge; PRM= pattern recognition memory; SRM= spatial recognition memory; language= total language score.

Figure 3-3 Scatter plot demonstrating relationships between CSF markers and cognitive assessments

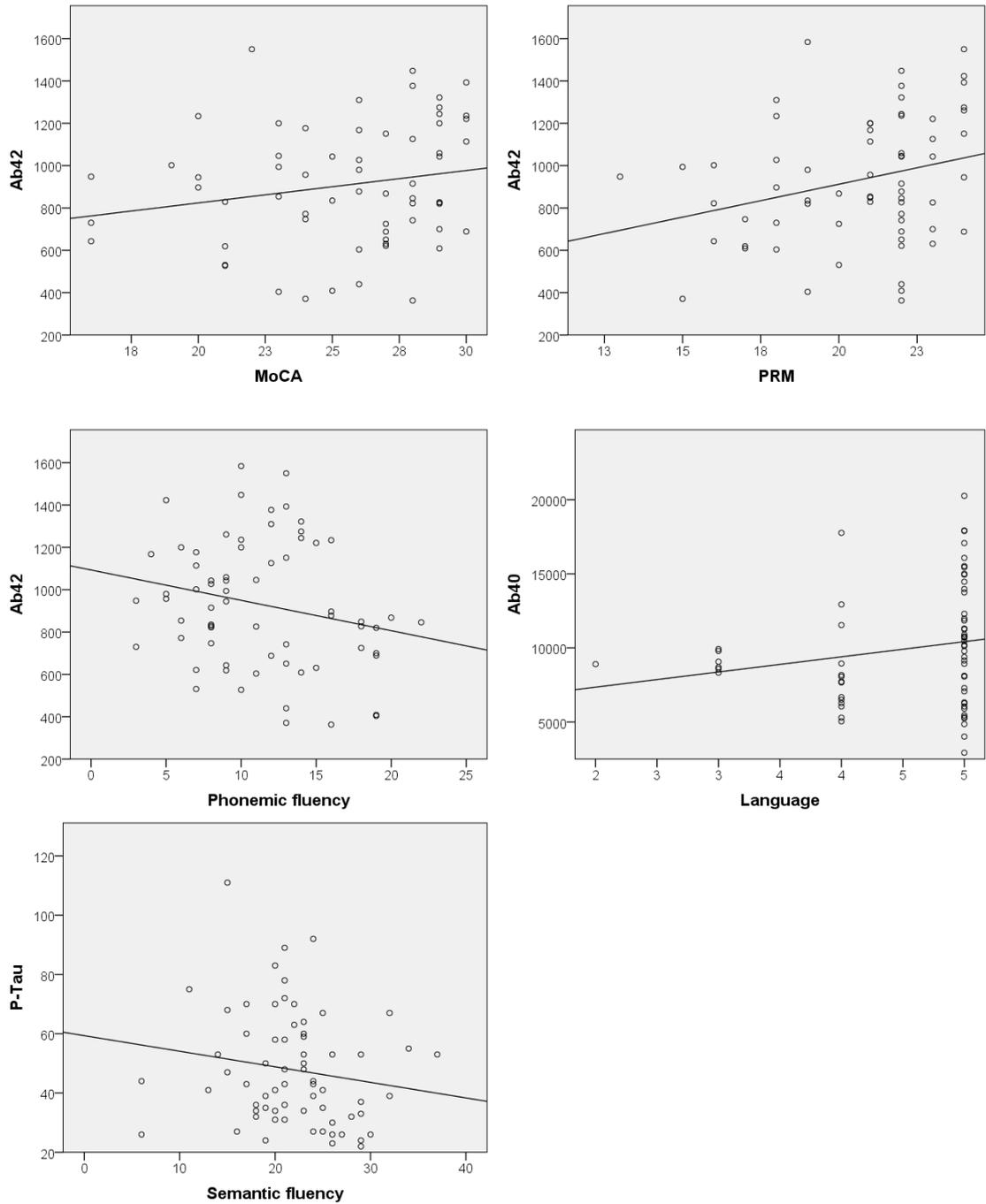


Table 3-6 Predictors of association between cognition and CSF biomarkers

Regression	B	SE	$\beta$	p
<b>MoCA</b>				
<i>Linear regression model (df=3, n=62), p = 0.002, R<sup>2</sup> = .215</i>				
Age	-.105	.049	-.253	0.037
Education	.277	.107	.302	0.012
A $\beta$ 42	.003	.002	.245	<b>0.041*</b>
<b>PRM</b>				
<i>Linear regression model (df=3, n=64), p = 0.003, R<sup>2</sup> = .207</i>				
Age	-.060	.032	-.217	0.064
Education	.191	.080	.273	0.021
A $\beta$ 42	.003	.001	.316	<b>0.008*</b>
<b>Phonemic fluency</b>				
<i>Linear regression model (df=3, n=66), p &lt;0.001, R<sup>2</sup> = .259</i>				
Age	.030	.054	.061	0.580
Education	.541	.128	.461	<0.001
A $\beta$ 42	-.003	.002	-.205	0.064
<b>Language</b>				
<i>Linear regression model (df=3, n=62), p = 0.056*, R<sup>2</sup> = .119</i>				
Age	-.018	.011	-.215	0.115
Education	.034	.023	.187	0.137
A $\beta$ 40	.000055	.000	.296	<b>0.031*</b>
<b>Semantic fluency</b>				
<i>Linear regression model (df=3, n=66), p = 0.035, R<sup>2</sup> = .127</i>				
Age	-.170	.081	-.275	0.040
Education	.296	.178	.200	0.101
P-tau	.001	.041	.003	0.982

In a linear regression model that allowed the co-variables of age and education to be controlled for, A $\beta$ 42 was associated with global cognition, as measured by MoCA ( $\beta$

standardised coefficient=0.245, p=0.041). Together, age, education and Aβ42 explained 21.5% of the variance in MoCA score (p=0.002). Similarly, Aβ42 remained associated with PRM, a test of temporal lobe function (β standardised coefficient=0.316, p=0.008), with this CSF marker plus age and education explaining 20.7% of the variance in PRM score (p=0.003). By contrast, the significant associations between Aβ42 and phonemic fluency and P-tau and semantic fluency were lost after controlling for the aforementioned variables in the model (β standardised coefficient=-0.205, p=0.064 and β=0.003, p=0.982, respectively). Although the overall model did not explain the variance in language (R<sup>2</sup>=0.119, p=0.056), reduced Aβ40 was correlated with poorer language score (β=0.296, p=0.031). However, it can be seen from the scatter plots in Figure 3-3 that the relationship between language and Aβ40 was not linear, and therefore firm conclusions cannot be drawn from these statistics.

To further explain cognition using CSF parameters, tests from each cognitive domain were entered into a linear regression model as the dependent variable and are shown below:

1. Global cognition (Montreal Cognitive Assessment)

Table 3-7 Regression model statistics and coefficients of variables for MoCA score in PD (n=63)

Independent	β	P-value
<b>Model 1</b>		
Age	-.220	0.070
Education	.250	0.051
UPDRS 3	-.178	0.156
<b>R<sup>2</sup> = .185; P-value of change = 0.007</b>		
<b>Model 2</b>		
Age	-.261	<b>0.030*</b>
Education	.250	<b>0.045*</b>
UPDRS 3	-.165	0.176
Aβ42	.237	<b>0.046*</b>
<b>R<sup>2</sup> = .239 ; P-value of change = 0.046</b>		

In a bivariate analysis, MoCA score demonstrated a negative association with motor severity score which reached near significance ( $r=-.0.240$ ,  $p=0.058$ , Spearman's rho); therefore UPDRS plus age and education were entered into the regression model. A greater level of A $\beta$ 42 was an independent determinant of MoCA score and explained 5.4% of variability (Table 3-7). In the final model, age, education and A $\beta$ 42 were independent determinants, explaining 24% of variability in MoCA. Motor severity was not significant, and the remainder of the CSF parameters were excluded from the model as they were also not significant.

2. Executive function (One Touch Stockings of Cambridge)

Table 3-8 Regression model statistics and coefficients of variables for OTS score (n=61)

Independent	$\beta$	P-value
<b>Model 1</b>		
Age	-.280	0.024
Education	.160	0.207
UPDRS 3	-.246	0.053
Motor phenotype score	.096	0.431
<b><math>R^2 = .197</math>; P-value of change = 0.014</b>		
<b>Model 2</b>		
Age	-.261	<b>0.006*</b>
Education	.250	0.123
UPDRS 3	-.165	0.093
Motor phenotype score	.075	0.528
A $\beta$ 40	.237	<b>0.047*</b>
<b><math>R^2 = .253</math> ; P-value of change = 0.047</b>		

In addition to age and education, OTS displayed a significant negative association with UPDRS 3 score ( $r=-0.268$ ,  $p=0.031$ ), with a trend towards a positive correlation with motor phenotype score (a greater score indicating more tremor-dominant features,  $r=0.213$ ,  $p=0.099$ ). A larger A $\beta$ 40 value was an independent determinant of OTS score, explaining 5.6% of variability (Table 3-8). The final model explained 25% of variability in OTS, with age and A $\beta$ 40 independent determinants. As there was only a trend

towards significance between OTS and motor phenotype score and the latter value was not significant in either model, the analysis was repeated without motor phenotype being entered into the initial step. This changed the model, with the final model explaining 24% of variability in OTS (P-value of change=0.030), and age ( $\beta=-0.391$ ,  $p=0.003$ ) plus P-tau ( $\beta=0.284$ ,  $p=0.003$ ) independent determinants.

### 3. Executive function (semantic fluency)

Table 3-9 Regression model statistics and coefficients of variables for semantic fluency (n=67)

Independent	$\beta$	P-value
<b>Model 1</b>		
<b>Age</b>	-.285	<b>0.015*</b>
<b>Education</b>	.211	0.069
<b>LEDD</b>	-.253	<b>0.029*</b>
<b><math>R^2 = .191</math>; P-value of change = 0.004</b>		

In a bivariate analysis for explanatory variables for semantic fluency, levodopa equivalent daily dose (LEDD, mg/day) negatively correlated with test score ( $r=-0.253$ ,  $p=0.039$ ). LEDD plus age and education explained 19% of variance in semantic fluency, with age and LEDD significant independent predictors in the final model. None of the CSF parameters added to the final model and were therefore not included, although A $\beta$ 42 showed a trend towards significance ( $\beta=.197$ ,  $p=0.086$ ).

### 4. Attention (Power of Attention)

Table 3-10 Regression model statistics and coefficients of variables for PoA (n=66)

Independent	$\beta$	P-value
<b>Model 1</b>		
<b>Age</b>	.203	0.073
<b>Education</b>	-.177	0.116
<b>GDS</b>	.427	<b>&lt;0.001*</b>
<b><math>R^2 = .251</math>; P-value of change &lt; 0.001</b>		

PoA score is a sum of reaction times, with a higher score indicating more impairment, and showed a positive correlation with GDS score ( $r=0.341$ ,  $p=0.005$ ) in bivariate analysis. Again there were no CSF markers that added to the model with age, education and GDS explaining 25% of variance in PoA. Only GDS was an independent determinant ( $\beta=0.427$ ,  $p<0.001$ ).

5. Memory (pattern recognition memory)

Table 3-11 Regression model statistics and coefficients of variables for PRM (n=65)

Independent	$\beta$	P-value
<b>Model 1</b>		
Age	-.202	0.073
Education	.148	0.200
UPDRS 3	-.404	0.001
<b><math>R^2 = .261</math>; P-value of change &lt; 0.001</b>		
<b>Model 2</b>		
Age	-.225	<b>0.035*</b>
Education	.173	0.113
UPDRS 3	-.401	<b>&lt;0.001*</b>
A $\beta$ 42	.312	<b>0.004*</b>
<b><math>R^2 = .357</math>; P-value of change = 0.004</b>		

PRM was negatively associated with UPDRS ( $r=-0.371$ ,  $p=0.002$ ). A $\beta$ 42 was an important determinant of PRM score, explaining nearly 10% variability in the final model (Table 3-11). Age, education, motor severity score and A $\beta$ 42 together accounted for 36% variability in PRM score, with age, UPDRS and A $\beta$ 42 independent predictors.

6. Memory (paired associates learning)

Table 3-12 Regression model statistics and coefficient variables for PAL (n=65)

Independent	$\beta$	P-value
<b>Model 1</b>		
Age	.372	0.002
Education	-.239	0.039
<b><math>R^2 = .212</math>; P-value of change = 0.001</b>		
<b>Model 2</b>		
Age	.521	<0.001*
Education	-.292	0.009*
P-tau	-.354	0.005*
<b><math>R^2 = .310</math>; P-value of change = 0.005</b>		

Paired associates learning (PAL) ‘mean trials to success’ was used as the score within this test (with a greater score indicating worse performance), as this was used in Chapter 2 as part of the definition of mild cognitive impairment. No other clinical variables correlated with PAL score apart from age and education, and in the final model, these plus P-tau explained 31% of variance in PAL score. All variables were independent determinants, with increasing P-tau levels predicting a better test score. However, it was noted that the model did not meet one of the assumptions required for generalisation, with a maximum standardised residual value of  $> \pm 3.0$  (one value was 4.4). Therefore, the model was repeated with this case excluded. This did not change the overall model ( $R^2=31\%$ ,  $p=0.005$ ), with age ( $\beta=.533$ ,  $p<0.001$ ), education ( $\beta=-.279$ ,  $p=0.014$ ) and P-tau ( $\beta=-.359$ ,  $p=0.005$ ) remaining independent contributors to PAL score. The model of PAL was also repeated using PAL ‘total errors’ (again a higher score indicating more impairment) and the same variables, as total error score has been shown to be very sensitive to the testing of an MCI (non-PD) group and also the prediction of AD (Swainson *et al.*, 2001; Blackwell *et al.*, 2004). In the final model, only age and education were included and both were significant contributors, explaining 24% of PAL total error score, but P-tau was no longer significant ( $p=0.082$ ). The standardised residuals were almost within  $\pm 3.0$  (one residual was 3.3).

7. Visuospatial function (pentagon score)

Table 3-13 Regression model statistics and coefficient variables for pentagon score (n=67)

Independent	$\beta$	P-value
<b>Model 1</b>		
<b>Age</b>	-.173	0.160
<b>Education</b>	.119	0.356
<b>UPDRS</b>	-.130	0.312
<b><math>R^2 = .275</math>; P-value of change = 0.172</b>		

Pentagon score demonstrated a trend towards an association with UPDRS on bivariate analysis ( $r=-0.211$ ,  $p=0.086$ ). The final model, although explaining 28% of variance in pentagon score, was not significantly better at predicting pentagon score than using the mean pentagon score, with no clinical or CSF characteristics independent determinants of visuospatial function. In addition, the assumptions for generalisation of the model were not met, with the standardised residual scores ranging from -5.2 to 0.927.

## 8. Language

Table 3-14 Regression model statistics and coefficient variables for language (n=62)

Independent	$\beta$	P-value
<b>Model 1</b>		
Age	-.135	0.274
Education	.153	0.237
UPDRS 3	-.065	0.628
GDS	-.169	0.206
LEDD	-.283	0.027
<b><math>R^2 = .189</math>; P-value of change = 0.034</b>		
<b>Model 2</b>		
Age	-.271	<b>0.037*</b>
Education	.197	0.113
UPDRS 3	.012	0.929
GDS	-.133	0.298
LEDD	-.364	<b>0.004*</b>
A $\beta$ 40	.356	<b>0.010*</b>
<b><math>R^2 = .283</math>; P-value of change = 0.010</b>		

Language score was significantly inversely associated with both LEDD ( $r=-0.327$ ,  $p=0.009$ ) and GDS ( $r=-0.291$ ,  $p=0.022$ ), with a trend towards correlation with UPDRS ( $r=-0.210$ ,  $p=0.098$ ). These plus age and education were therefore entered into the first step of the model, with these clinical variables plus A $\beta$ 40 explaining 28% of variability in language score. In the final model, younger age, lower LEDD and increased A $\beta$ 40 were independent determinants of language score, with A $\beta$ 40 explaining 9% of the variance. A $\beta$ 42 was also a significant predictor (partial correlation=.268,  $p=0.044$ ), but was forced out by A $\beta$ 40 and hence not included in the final model. As motor severity showed only a trend towards significance in association with language score and did not independently contribute to either model, the model was repeated with this variable removed. This did not alter the final model, which explained 28% variability with age, LEDD and A $\beta$ 40 being independent predictors of

language score. Below is a summary table of the contributors to cognition discussed in this section, using clinical and CSF parameters in regression models.

Table 3-15 Summary table of independent contributors to cognitive assessments

	MoCA	OTS	Semantic fluency	PoA	PRM	PAL	Pentagon	Language
<b>Age</b>	X	X	X		X	X		X
<b>Education</b>	X					X		
<b>UPDRS 3</b>					X			
<b>LEDD</b>			X					X
<b>GDS</b>				X				
<b>A<math>\beta</math>42</b>	X				X			
<b>A<math>\beta</math>40</b>		X*						X
<b>P-tau</b>		X*				X		

X=significant determinant of cognition in the final regression model; \*Differing CSF parameters included, depending on whether motor phenotype included in model

### 3.6.3 CSF and MCI

To further examine CSF and its relationship with MCI, participants were dichotomised into those who met the criteria for level 2 MCI at 1.5 standard deviations (SDs) and those who were cognitively normal (see Chapter 2 for description of methods as to how MCI was defined). CSF values according to cognitive status are shown in Table 3-16. PD participants who met criteria for level 2 MCI (PD-MCI, n=21) had significantly fewer years of education than those who were cognitively normal (PD-CN, n=46) (11.2 vs. 14.5 years,  $p < 0.001$ , Mann-Whitney test). The PD-MCI cohort had significantly lower mean A $\beta$ 40 levels compared with PD-CN (8781 vs. 10,852 pg/ml,  $p = 0.029$ , t-test), and there was a trend towards reduced A $\beta$ 42 in the MCI group (840.2 vs. 971.6 pg/ml,  $p = 0.096$ , t-test). Initially there was no significant differences in T-tau or P-tau in either group ( $p = 0.456$  and  $p = 0.425$ , respectively, Mann-Whitney test).

A binary logistic regression model was used to control for age and education, as increased age is associated with risk of MCI (Foltynie *et al.*, 2004; Muslimovic *et al.*, 2005; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2007a; Kim *et al.*, 2009; Mamikonyan *et al.*, 2009; Aarsland *et al.*, 2010; McColgan *et al.*, 2012) and there was a significant difference between the number of years of education between the two groups. After controlling for these

variables, significant differences in all CSF parameters remained between the two cognitive groups, with the exception of  $\alpha$ -synuclein. T-tau, P-tau, A $\beta$ 42 and A $\beta$ 40 values were all significantly lower in the PD-MCI groups ( $p=0.032$ ,  $p=0.039$ ,  $p=0.041$  and  $p=0.009$ , respectively) (Figure 3-4 and Table 3-17 to Table 3-20). Inspection of residuals revealed that two cases (case 23 and 43, both from the PD-MCI group) had standardised residuals  $> 3$ . The analysis was therefore repeated with these cases excluded, which did not change the significance of the models or CSF parameters ( $p=0.020$ ,  $p=0.035$ ,  $p=0.017$  and  $p=0.005$  for T-tau, P-tau, A $\beta$ 42 and A $\beta$ 40, respectively). Of the five participants with A $\beta$ 42 levels less than 500 pg/ml, only one was classified as PD-MCI, with a corresponding figure of three out of 15 subjects with P-tau levels greater than 60 pg/ml. Three of the low A $\beta$ 42 and six of the high P-tau group scored less than 26 on the MoCA, thus meeting the criteria for level 1 MCI.

Table 3-16 CSF profile according to cognitive status

	Level 2 PD- CN	Level 2 MCI 1.5 SD	Unadjust- ed p	adjusted p <sup>b</sup>
No. patients	46	21		
Age (yrs)	63.6 (9.7)	66.3 (8.7)	0.291	-
Education (yrs)	14.5 (4.0)	11.2 (2.8)	<b>&lt;0.001<sup>a</sup></b>	-
CSF T-tau (pg/ml)	135.2 (92.1)	119.9 (97.1)	0.456 <sup>a</sup>	<b>0.032</b>
CSF P-tau (pg/ml)	49.2 (19.8)	44.8 (17.4)	0.425 <sup>a</sup>	<b>0.039</b>
CSF A $\beta$ 42 (pg/ml)	971.6 (319)	840.2 (234.6)	0.096	<b>0.041</b>
CSF A $\beta$ 40 (pg/ml)	10852 (4369)	8781 (3035)	<b>0.029</b>	<b>0.009</b>
$\alpha$ syn (pg/ml)	119.3 (116.6)	90.3 (43.9)	0.358 <sup>a</sup>	0.182

Values are mean (SD); <sup>a</sup>Mann-Whitney test; remainder unpaired t-test;

<sup>b</sup>Adjusted for age and education in a binary logistic regression model.

Figure 3-4 Scatter plot of (A) CSF A $\beta$ 42 and (B) CSF A $\beta$ 40 levels (pg/ml) in PD-CN and PD-MCI at 1.5 SD below normative values

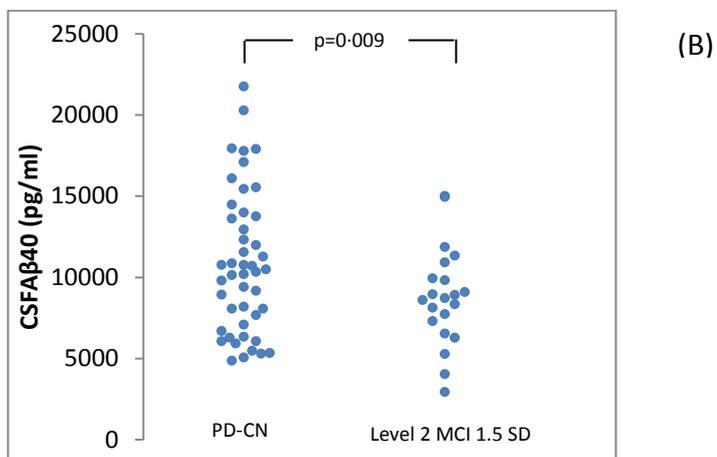
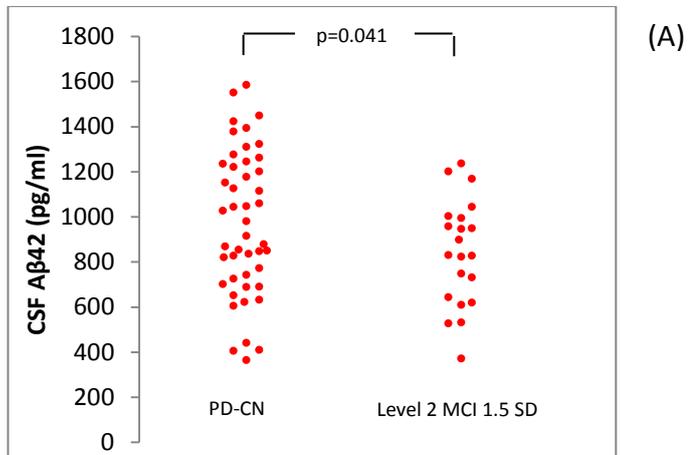


Table 3-17 Binary logistic regression statistics for MCI and T-tau

	<i>B (SE)</i>	P-value	Exp (B)	95% CI for Exp (B)	
				Lower	Upper
<b>Age</b>	.069 (.041)	0.088	1.072	.990	1.160
<b>Education</b>	-.401 (.128)	0.002*	.670	.521	.860
<b>T-tau</b>	-.009 (.004)	0.032*	.991	.983	.999

$R^2 = .249$  (Cox & Snell),  $.350$  (Nagelkerke); Model Chi-squared (3) = 19.17,  $p < 0.001$

Table 3-18 Binary logistic regression statistics for MCI and P-Tau

	<i>B (SE)</i>	P-value	Exp (B)	95% CI for Exp (B)	
				Lower	Upper
<b>Age</b>	.069 (.041)	0.094	1.071	.988	1.161
<b>Education</b>	-.377 (.124)	0.002*	.686	.537	.875
<b>P-tau</b>	-.042 (.020)	0.039*	.959	.922	.998

$R^2 = .247$  (Cox & Snell),  $.347$  (Nagelkerke); Model Chi-squared (3) = 19.02,  $p < 0.001$

Table 3-19 Binary logistic regression statistics for MCI and A $\beta$ 42

	<i>B (SE)</i>	P-value	Exp (B)	95% CI for Exp (B)	
				Lower	Upper
<b>Age</b>	.035 (.036)	0.326	1.036	.966	1.111
<b>Education</b>	-.376 (.131)	0.004*	.687	.531	.887
<b>A<math>\beta</math>42</b>	-.002 (.001)	0.041*	.998	.996	1.000

$R^2 = .241$  (Cox & Snell),  $.339$  (Nagelkerke); Model Chi-squared (3) = 18.50,  $p < 0.001$

Table 3-20 Binary logistic regression statistics for MCI and A $\beta$ 40

	<i>B (SE)</i>	P-value	Exp (B)	95% CI for Exp (B)	
				Lower	Upper
<b>Age</b>	.087 (.046)	0.058	1.090	.997	1.192
<b>Education</b>	-.394 (.131)	0.003*	.675	.522	.871
<b>A<math>\beta</math>40</b>	$-3.10 \times 10^{-4}$ ( $1.18 \times 10^{-4}$ )	0.009*	.9997	.9995	.9999

$R^2 = .301$  (Cox & Snell),  $.422$  (Nagelkerke); Model Chi-squared (3) = 23.96,  $p < 0.001$

Lastly, the CSF parameters of those with level 2 PD-MCI (n=21) were then examined further in an exploratory analysis. Due to the small numbers impaired in each cognitive domain, participants were instead dichotomised into those with single- or multiple-domain MCI and those with amnestic vs. nonamnestic impairments. No significant differences between mean CSF levels were seen in single- (n=9) vs. multiple- (n=12) domain MCI (A $\beta$ 42: 792.3 vs. 876.2, p=0.400; A $\beta$ 40: 8207.3 vs. 9210.9, p=0.468; T-tau: 134.8 vs. 108.7, p=0.556; P-tau: 44.3 vs. 45.2, p=0.917; asyn: 87.2 vs. 92.6, p=0.788, respectively). Interestingly, PD subjects with amnestic MCI (n=11) had significantly lower T-tau levels compared with nonamnestic MCI (n=10; 77.8 vs. 166.1, respectively, p=0.034). P-tau levels showed a trend towards significance (amnestic 38.7 vs. nonamnestic 51.5, p=0.093). The amnestic and nonamnestic participants did not differ significantly in mean A $\beta$ 42 (837.1 vs. 843.7, respectively, p=0.951), A $\beta$ 40 (8214.1 vs. 9404.2, p=0.383) or asyn levels (79.5 vs. 102.2, p=0.248). When these values were entered into a binary logistic regression model, however, with amnestic/nonamnestic as the dependent variable, and age, education plus T-tau or P-tau as co-variates, neither T-tau nor P-tau were significant determinants. Furthermore, the model chi-square was not significant, indicating that the addition of the variables to the model did not significantly affect its predictive power (for T-tau model chi-square statistic (3) = 7.54, p>0.05; B=.019, p=0.052. For P-tau, model chi-square statistic (3) = 5.64, p>0.05; B=.086, p=0.108).

### **3.7 Discussion: CSF as a biomarker for cognition in PD**

In line with previous studies, CSF A $\beta$ 42 and A $\beta$ 40 levels were found to be significantly lower in those with impaired cognition (Mollenhauer *et al.*, 2006a; Compta *et al.*, 2009; Montine *et al.*, 2010), with no differences in  $\alpha$ syn levels. It should be noted, however, that only total  $\alpha$ syn and not oligomeric  $\alpha$ syn was measured; the latter has been postulated to be the pathogenic species that may precipitate neuronal degeneration (Paleologou *et al.*, 2009). A $\beta$ 42 correlated with both global cognition and visual PRM, the latter being sensitive to deficits of temporal lobe function. A $\beta$ 42 and A $\beta$ 40 are major fibrillar components of amyloid plaques, one of the pathological hallmarks of AD (Selkoe, 1996; Caughey and Lansbury, 2003). Although the pathophysiology of PD-MCI is poorly understood and likely to be heterogeneous, it is most likely the result of a complex and varying interaction between neurotransmitter dysfunction, synaptic

pathology, protein aggregation and neuronal damage. To date, only one neuropathological study in well-characterised PD-MCI in which participants were followed prospectively has been reported (Adler *et al.*, 2010). The neuropathology was heterogeneous, with some cases exhibiting limbic or neocortical Lewy body (LB) pathology and the remainder predominantly consisting of brainstem LB pathology. Diffuse amyloid plaques were seen in the majority of cases, with two of the amnesic MCI subgroup meeting the neuropathological criteria for AD. Reduced A $\beta$ 42 in our participants with PD-MCI therefore suggests that these patients may have a higher burden of distinct pathology based within medial temporal lobe of an Alzheimer's-type, a finding strengthened by the correlation with PRM on neuropsychological testing. PRM is insensitive to levodopa therapy (Lange *et al.*, 1992) and has been associated with scores on a dementia screen in a large group of PD patients (Owen *et al.*, 1993). It is therefore possible that even with disease duration of less than six months, alterations in A $\beta$  metabolism are present in a subset of patients, leading to A $\beta$  fibrillization, aggregation and deposition of amyloid plaques, with subsequent increased risk of future dementia. Indeed there is evidence that A $\beta$  alterations occur early and may affect motor circuits in addition to cognition, with reduced A $\beta$  in *de novo* PD patients (Alves *et al.*, 2013; Halliday, 2013). By contrast, a trend towards decreased T-tau and P181-tau in subjects with PD-MCI was found, consistent with some (Alves *et al.*, 2010; Montine *et al.*, 2010) but not all (Compta *et al.*, 2009) previous work. Indeed, there is evidence that tau levels are higher in AD and DLB than PDD (Parnetti *et al.*, 2008; Andersson *et al.*, 2011). These findings are consistent with the temporal ordering of biomarker abnormalities seen in AD, which may have some translational application in the development of cognitive decline in PD: Here markers of A $\beta$  deposition occur early and are only followed by markers of neuronal death (such as increased tau) much later in the disease trajectory. The findings are also consistent with the autopsy study from Adler and colleagues in PD-MCI which demonstrated little neurofibrillary tangle deposition (Adler *et al.*, 2010). This is the first work on CSF findings in PD-MCI classified by the MDS criteria, and the small differences in tau levels seen between the groups are of uncertain significance, with further work required including longitudinal data to clarify the findings.

Some of the most interesting results from this work are derived from the regression models using CSF parameters to explain cognition. A $\beta$ 42 was an independent contributor to global cognition, as measured by MoCA score, and explained 5% of variability. As discussed above, A $\beta$ 42 was also an independent predictor of PRM, sensitive to deficits of temporal lobe function (Owen *et al.*, 1995b) and hence a more 'posteriorly' mediated cognitive test. Semantic fluency has also been postulated to have a more posterior cortical than fronto-striatal basis and has been shown to predict cognitive decline in one incident cohort of PD (Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2007a; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2009a), but amyloid pathology did not seem to contribute in this study. Lesion studies have demonstrated that frontal lobe injuries produce similar deficits on phonemic and semantic fluency, whilst temporal lobe damage produces a greater impairment in semantic compared to phonemic fluency (Henry and Crawford, 2004a). In addition, PD patients are significantly more impaired on semantic relative to phonemic fluency, which is likely to reflect the dependence on semantic memory in the former test (Henry and Crawford, 2004b). The neural networks of semantic memory, which require activation of long-term memory, are thought to originate in the temporal lobe, specifically in the medial temporal lobe (Pihlajamaki *et al.*, 2000). It is therefore surprising that A $\beta$  did not contribute to variability in semantic fluency and may indicate a differing underlying pathophysiological process, such as cholinergic loss, dopaminergic denervation or cortical Lewy body deposition. There was, however, a trend towards significance, and alternatively the study could have been underpowered to detect such differences. Most previous studies of CSF in PD have not demonstrated an overall association between semantic fluency and A $\beta$  (Alves *et al.*, 2010; Leverenz *et al.*, 2011), and although one study did report that CSF A $\beta$  was significantly lower in those with impaired semantic and phonemic fluencies with a significant positive correlation with semantic fluency (Compta *et al.*, 2009), the disease duration of the participants was much greater than in the present study (mean 10 years).

Executive function as measured by OTS, a test of planning requiring working memory (Owen *et al.*, 1995a) that has been shown to activate fronto-parietal-caudate circuitry (Baker *et al.*, 1996; Cheesman *et al.*, 2005), was more difficult to interpret in the context of CSF biomarkers. In the initial regression model, A $\beta$ 40 contributed to OTS score, but after removing motor phenotype, it was P-tau that was a significant

contributor. In addition, the latter relationship was positive, indicating that greater P-tau levels predict a better score on OTS. OTS is thought to be primarily mediated by cortical dopamine levels (Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2009a). It has been hypothesised that in PD, the reason for reduced tau and A $\beta$  levels seen in the CSF is due to deposition of soluble tau and A $\beta$  oligomers, which instead of forming insoluble tangles and plaques precipitate the aggregation of  $\alpha$ -synuclein into soluble oligomers then the insoluble fibrils found in Lewy bodies (Shi and Zhang, 2011). If this is true, it may explain in part why there is a positive relationship between P-tau and better scores on both OTS and PAL, with greater tau levels indicating reduced Lewy body burden. Indeed, the finding that tau contributed to PAL 'mean trials to success' score but not 'total errors' score strengthens this assumption, as 'total error' score has been shown to predict AD (Swainson *et al.*, 2001; Blackwell *et al.*, 2004). These findings also correspond with those indicating reduced tau levels in those with amnesic versus nonamnesic MCI. Although both T-tau and P-tau demonstrated a strong positive correlation with  $\alpha$ -synuclein, this does not disprove the above hypothesis, and may be because total and not soluble  $\alpha$ -synuclein levels were measured; the latter is thought to be the more toxic species (Paleologou *et al.*, 2009). Hence this would support the thinking that cognitive impairment in PD has a somewhat different pathology to AD.

Neither attention nor visuospatial function had CSF parameters in their final model. Attention is likely to be cholinergically mediated, at least in part (Yarnall *et al.*, 2011), and therefore it is predictable that amyloid and tau pathology did not contribute to the model. Although one study in PD did demonstrate an association between attention subscores and low CSF A $\beta$ 42, the effect was only seen after longitudinal assessment (Siderowf *et al.*, 2010). It is likely that the associations and independent contributions of CSF parameters will change over time in our ICICLE-PD study. The lack of contribution of biomarkers to visuospatial function is perhaps more unexpected, given the previous work from Cambridge indicating that impaired pentagon copying early in disease is predictive of subsequent cognitive decline (Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2007a; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2009a). Again it is possible that this could be due to pathology that is not detected by CSF assays, such as the presence of cortical Lewy bodies. Also, it should be noted that in this study pentagon copying, with possible scores of 0, 1 or 2,

was the sole measure of visuospatial function and therefore may not have the sensitivity required to delineate independent contributors.

Lastly, the finding that A $\beta$ 40 contributed to variability in language function is intriguing. As discussed above, A $\beta$ 40 is less prone to aggregate as compared to A $\beta$ 42, and it has been suggested that A $\beta$ 40 is more likely to reflect A $\beta$  peptide production from amyloid precursor protein rather than amyloid deposition per se (Andreasson *et al.*, 2007; Alves *et al.*, 2010). The language tests that were used as part of the study were relatively crude and form part of the MoCA, but it is well established that localisation of language function occurs in the temporal lobe and hence is a more posteriorly mediated cognitive domain (Spitsyna *et al.*, 2006). Although language function may be less affected than other cognitive domains in PD (Troster, 2008; Barone *et al.*, 2011), the finding that A $\beta$  pathology significantly contributes to language variability verifies the results for PRM above, and suggests that lower A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 increases the risk of subsequent cognitive decline due to temporal lobe AD-type pathology.

The strengths of this project are its accurate characterisation of a homogeneous cohort of early PD participants and relatively large numbers of patients for a CSF study. The analysis of CSF biomarkers was performed by an internationally-renowned team with multiple previous publications on the subject. However, it should be noted that our mean values for CSF parameters were somewhat higher than those seen in other studies using an electroluminescence platform (Mollenhauer *et al.*, 2011b). The lack of comparators in the form of either control or AD participants who underwent CSF sampling could also be viewed as a weakness. It can be seen from Figure 3-4 that there is considerable overlap in individual A $\beta$ 42 and A $\beta$ 40 levels between PD-MCI and PD-CN, and hence it is unlikely that CSF alone can be used as a biomarker for cognitive decline. However, in the future, hopefully lower levels of these analytes could be used with other risk markers to predict subsequent risk of cognitive impairment. As discussed in chapter 2, some of the neuropsychological domains may be simplistic in terms of localisation of separate functions. Lastly, without neuropathological data, it is difficult to exclude concomitant AD pathology as a cause for our findings.

In conclusion, significantly lower A $\beta$ 42 and A $\beta$ 40 levels were found in PD-MCI, and reduced A $\beta$ 42 correlated with temporal lobe impairments. Lower CSF A $\beta$ 42 and A $\beta$ 40 levels could therefore be used in a set of risk markers to determine those at a greater

risk of cognitive decline, with these subjects targeted for future early therapeutic intervention and disease modification.

## Chapter 4 Short latency afferent inhibition as a biomarker for cognitive decline in Parkinson's disease

### 4.1 Rationale for short latency afferent inhibition as a biomarker in Parkinson's disease

The deposition of cortical and subcortical Lewy bodies is implicated in the underlying pathophysiology of dementia in PD (Aarsland *et al.*, 2005a), with recent clinicopathological studies demonstrating a synergistic role for Alzheimer-type pathology in PDD (Lashley *et al.*, 2008; Kempster *et al.*, 2010; Compta *et al.*, 2011b). Additionally, imaging (Bohnen *et al.*, 2003) and post-mortem (Tiraboschi *et al.*, 2000) studies support a cholinergic basis for cognitive impairment, although other neurotransmitters are likely to be involved. Cholinergic dysfunction and its role in PDD are discussed more extensively in Chapter 1 (section 1.6.5). The pathophysiology of mild cognitive impairment in PD patients (PD-MCI) is less well characterised, with some evidence suggesting that acetylcholine deficiency may contribute (Meyer *et al.*, 2009).

A biomarker that could predict those at risk of cognitive decline would be invaluable in allowing appropriate targeting of therapeutic interventions. Short latency afferent inhibition (SAI) is one possibility and provides an *in vivo* non-invasive measurement of cholinergic function, substantiated by studies demonstrating decreased SAI in Alzheimer's disease (AD) (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2002; Nardone *et al.*, 2008a), DLB (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2007b) and after administration of the muscarinic antagonist scopolamine in normal subjects (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2000). Most recently, SAI was found to be significantly impaired in patients with PDD (Celebi *et al.*, 2012). To date, there have been no studies exploring the cholinergic basis of PD-MCI using SAI, or indeed examining SAI in early PD. The aim of this part of the study was therefore to determine whether subjects with early PD had evidence of cholinergic dysfunction, and to establish whether SAI contributed to cognitive dysfunction. We hypothesised that PD participants would have reduced SAI compared to controls, and that those with PD-MCI would have decreased SAI compared to cognitively normal PD patients (PD-CN). An additional hypothesis was that more posteriorly-mediated cognitive tests would show greater association with SAI, being putatively more cholinergically mediated.

## 4.2 What is short latency afferent inhibition?

SAI can be described as the inhibition of the motor cortex that occurs approximately 20 milliseconds (ms) after median nerve stimulation at the wrist (Tokimura *et al.*, 2000; Chen *et al.*, 2008; Chen, 2013). It is seen as suppression of a motor evoked potential (MEP) in hand muscles, produced by transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) of the contralateral motor cortex, after a conditioning afferent stimulation of the median nerve, and is measured by averaging conditioned/unconditioned MEPs (%) with a greater value indicating less inhibition. For example, a value of 45% would indicate that the mean MEP responses were reduced to 45% of the test unconditioned response. SAI is thought to be cortical in origin, as an early study demonstrated through recordings of reduced descending corticospinal volleys induced by TMS following median nerve stimulation in conscious patients with implanted electrodes in the cervical epidural space (Tokimura *et al.*, 2000). The same study also established that SAI arises around 1ms after latency of the N20 component (a negativity that usually peaks around 20ms after the stimulus) of the somatosensory evoked potential achieved after median nerve stimulation, and lasts for around 8ms (Tokimura *et al.*, 2000; Chen *et al.*, 2008). Although the exact underlying pathway of SAI is unknown, it is likely to involve a fast pathway from the periphery to the motor cortex, via thalamocortical projection to either the motor cortex directly or the sensory then motor cortex (Chen, 2013). As discussed above, SAI is reduced in cholinergically-mediated dementias ((Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2002; Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2007b; Nardone *et al.*, 2008a) and after administration of the muscarinic antagonist scopolamine (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2000); it is also increased after a single dose of a cholinesterase inhibitor (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2002) and SAI response predicts long term response to this drug (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2005a). Therefore acetylcholine (ACh) is likely to be involved in mediating SAI.

Other neurotransmitters that may influence SAI in normal or diseased states include  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid (GABA) and dopamine. Previous studies have shown that diazepam increases (or has no effect) (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2007a) whilst lorazepam and zolpidem decrease SAI (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2005c; Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2007a). Benzodiazepines act on GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors, with differing drugs having different affinity for receptor subtypes. It is possible that the reason for these distinct actions on SAI could be due to actions on

separate receptor subtypes, as diazepam is relatively non-selective, the affinity of lorazepam for various GABA receptor subtypes is unknown, and zolpidem has a high affinity for  $\alpha$ 1-subunits bearing GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2005c). The interaction between cortical ACh and GABA is complex, with human pathological studies demonstrating ACh-induced activation of GABA neurones with subsequent triggering of GABAergic postsynaptic currents (Alkondon *et al.*, 2000), and animal models indicating decreased ACh release following administration of GABA receptor agonists (Imperato *et al.*, 1993) and enhanced release with GABA<sub>A</sub> antagonists (Giorgetti *et al.*, 2000; Diez-Ariza *et al.*, 2002). Whilst these studies using different benzodiazepines indicate that GABA receptors are involved in the circuitry underlying SAI, it is difficult to be certain entirely what the effects of changes in the synaptic/extrasynaptic concentration of endogenous and non-specific GABA would be. GABA receptors are likely to contribute to other cortical circuits including short-interval intracortical inhibition (SICI) and long interval cortical inhibition (LICI), both of which interact with SAI (Alle *et al.*, 2009; Udupa *et al.*, 2009). Other neurotransmitters are unlikely to be involved in SAI in healthy subjects as quetiapine, a serotonergic, dopaminergic, histaminergic and  $\alpha$ 1&2 adrenergic antagonist, has no significant effect on SAI or SICI (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2005b).

There is also evidence that dopamine may modulate cortical cholinergic function and hence modify SAI in some diseases. Administration of levodopa (Martorana *et al.*, 2009) and dopamine agonists (Martorana *et al.*, 2013) restores SAI in AD but has no effect in healthy controls. In PD, SAI was reported to be normal in patients off dopaminergic medications but reduced on the affected side after administration of dopaminergic medication (Sailer *et al.*, 2003). However, other researchers argue that SAI is actually pathologically increased in PD, and that treatment with levodopa restores this (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2004a).

In summary, SAI is an inhibitory cortical circuit that is likely to reflect ACh function, although other neurotransmitters may also be involved. Quantification of SAI provides a mechanism to investigate neuronal circuits and alterations in different disease states, allowing increased understanding of the disease pathogenesis.

#### 4.2.1 Other inhibitory and facilitatory cortical circuits

TMS allows the non-invasive investigation of excitatory and inhibitory cortical circuits and their underlying neurobiology. It involves stimulation of corticospinal neurones via a magnetic field produced by an electrical current passed through shielded wire coils (Cantello *et al.*, 2002; Rogasch and Fitzgerald, 2013). TMS applied to the primary motor cortex (M1) with sufficient intensity produces a motor evoked potential (MEP) in the target muscle. In addition to SAI, a number of other inhibitory and facilitatory circuits can be investigated using TMS, and these plus their interactions are shown in Table 4-1 (Chen, 2004; Muller-Dahlhaus *et al.*, 2008; Paulus *et al.*, 2008; Alle *et al.*, 2009; Freitas *et al.*, 2011; Ni *et al.*, 2011; Tsutsumi *et al.*, 2012a; Tsutsumi *et al.*, 2012b).

Table 4-1 Summary of cortical circuits investigated with TMS

Circuit	Method of measurement of individual circuits	Neuro-transmission	Interaction with other circuits
<b>SAI</b>	TMS of M1 preceded by median nerve stimulus at ISI of ~20ms	ACh (+/- GABA <sub>A</sub> )	Reduces SIHI and LICI
<b>SICI</b>	Subthreshold conditioning stimulus applied ipsilateral to a suprathreshold test stimulus ('paired pulse TMS') over M1 at an ISI of 1-5ms	Largely via inhibitory GABA <sub>A</sub> -R	Reduces SAI
<b>LICI</b>	Paired pulse TMS with 2 suprathreshold stimuli applied over M1 at an ISI of 50-200ms	Inhibitory GABA <sub>B</sub> -R	Reduces SIHI
<b>SIHI</b>	Inhibition seen after conditioning stimulus delivered to <i>contralateral</i> M1, followed by test stimulus at 6-15ms	Transcallosal pathways ?via GABA <sub>B</sub> -R	Reduces SICI and SAI
<b>LAI</b>	As for SAI but with ISI of ~200ms	Unknown	Inhibits LICI
<b>ICF</b>	As for SICI but with longer ISIs of 7-20ms	?Excitatory glutamate via NMDA-R (+/- inhibitory GABA <sub>A</sub> )	Increased by LAI

SICI=short-interval intracortical inhibition; LICI=long-interval intracortical inhibition; SIHI=short-latency interhemispheric inhibition; LAI=long latency afferent inhibition; ICF=intracortical facilitation; M1=primary motor cortex; ISI=interstimulus interval; NMDA-R=N-Methyl-D-aspartic acid receptor.

#### **4.2.2 Short latency afferent inhibition in neurodegenerative diseases**

As discussed above, it has been established that SAI is reduced in AD (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2002; Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2004b; Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2005a; Nardone *et al.*, 2008a).

Acetylcholinesterase inhibitors (AChE-I) can restore this loss (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2002; Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2004b), with rivastigmine producing an increase in SAI from a mean baseline of 83.2% to 59.4% inhibition after a single dose in one study (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2002), and from 86.2% to 70.1% in a larger cohort (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2004b). There was no significant change in SAI in the controls given the drug (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2002).

Both baseline SAI and increase in SAI after treatment with rivastigmine predict long-term response to the drug, as measured by the Global Deterioration Scale (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2005a). In this latter study, change in SAI following administration of an AChE-I correlated with changes in assessments of long-term verbal memory and verbal fluency (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2005a). Moreover, specific behavioural disorders are associated with cholinergic dysfunction, with hallucinations correlating with SAI in DLB and with affective symptoms in AD (Marra *et al.*, 2011).

In mild cognitive impairment (MCI), the data on SAI is less clear. Three studies have examined SAI in MCI in non-parkinsonian patients; an earlier study in amnesic MCI did not demonstrate an impairment in SAI compared to controls (Sakuma *et al.*, 2007), but more recent findings in those with more advanced cognitive impairments who displayed abnormalities on functional neuroimaging support the hypothesis that degeneration of cholinergic interneurons is an early process in MCI, with reduced SAI in those with cognitive deficits (Tsutsumi *et al.*, 2012a). Participants with MCI displayed a mean SAI of 85% compared to 50% in the control group; interestingly there was no difference in those who were and were not taking donepezil (Tsutsumi *et al.*, 2012a). In a further study examining MCI subtypes, only those with amnesic MCI-multiple domain had reduced SAI compared with other subtypes and controls (Nardone *et al.*, 2012b). Administration of donepezil in a sample of these participants significantly increased SAI, and in all participants, SAI significantly correlated with tests of verbal memory, attention and executive function (with the exception of verbal fluency).

In contrast to AD and DLB, where there is a profound loss of cholinergic transmission, SAI is normal in frontotemporal dementia (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2006) and in some subjects

with vascular dementia (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2008), thus supporting the role of SAI as a non-invasive putative measure of cholinergic loss. However, other studies have demonstrated that cholinergic loss may be a feature of vascular dementia, with reduced SAI in patients compared to controls (Nardone *et al.*, 2008b), although it should be noted that individual responses varied widely. In addition, emerging work in the hereditary small vessel disease Cerebral Autosomal Dominant Arteriopathy with Subcortical Infarcts and Leukoencephalopathy (CADASIL), where white matter lesions can affect cholinergic projections, has shown a loss of SAI (Manganelli *et al.*, 2008; Palomar *et al.*, 2013). One small study included eight patients with progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP), where degeneration of cholinergic neurones in the pedunculopontine nucleus (PPN) and nucleus basalis of Meynert (nbM) is part of the pathology (Nardone *et al.*, 2005). Perhaps surprisingly, there was no difference in SAI between PSP patients and controls; the authors postulated that the cholinergic system is affected differently in PD and PSP, with loss of presynaptic cholinergic neurones and upregulation of muscarinic ACh receptors in PD but not PSP (Nardone *et al.*, 2005). Recent work has examined SAI in subjects with and without idiopathic REM sleep behaviour disorder (iRBD) (Nardone *et al.*, 2012c). Over half the participants with iRBD also had MCI, with mean SAI significantly smaller in those with iRBD than controls (72.2% SAI in iRBD vs. 43.1% in controls). SAI correlated with iRBD disease duration, global cognition and measures of episodic memory and executive functions (Nardone *et al.*, 2012c).

#### **4.2.3 Short latency afferent inhibition and ageing**

Because of evidence indicating that sensorimotor integration is altered during ageing with a decline in cholinergic function, a number of studies have examined the effect of age on SAI and other cortical circuits. Earlier studies did not demonstrate differences in SAI between young and 'elderly' subjects (Oliviero *et al.*, 2006; Degardin *et al.*, 2011), although mean ages of older participants were only 71 and 62, respectively. In more recent work with larger numbers and increased age (31 participants, mean age 70.3 years, range 65-82), SAI was significantly reduced in the older compared to younger age group, with approximately half of the senior group exhibiting low levels of inhibition, and a number exhibiting facilitation (average conditioned MEP  $\geq$  100%) (Young-Bernier *et al.*, 2012a). Within the older age group, SAI did not correlate with

increasing age *per se*, but did predict motor performance. The same authors published a further study in the same groups of patients and found that SAI explained approximately 10% of the variance in memory scores (which was significant), but did not predict executive function (Young-Bernier *et al.*, 2012b).

#### **4.2.4 Short latency afferent inhibition in Lewy body diseases**

Studies that have explored SAI in Lewy body diseases are shown in Table 4-2. The first study in PD assessed 10 young prevalent PD participants on and off dopaminergic medications (mean age 58.2 years) and 10 age-matched controls. In PD subjects on the more affected side, SAI was normal in the 'off' state (~50% of conditioned MEP response) but was decreased after dopaminergic medication (~100%) (Sailer *et al.*, 2003). SAI did not correlate with scores of motor severity or disease duration. The authors of a consequent study of just three PD subjects and 12 age-matched controls argued that SAI was enhanced in PD in the 'off' state, and that this is restored by L-dopa administration (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2004a). In the affected side of these hemiparkinsonian participants, SAI was 22.1% versus 54.1% on the unaffected side. The findings of increased SAI in PD was confirmed by a further study, whose authors reasoned that this could be due to upregulation of postsynaptic muscarinic ACh receptors due to loss of presynaptic cholinergic projective neurones (Nardone *et al.*, 2005). Here SAI was 24.2% in PD versus 44% in PSP and 46.2% in controls, with no association found between SAI and neuropsychological data.

Three studies have evaluated SAI in DLB. Although an initial study did not demonstrate differences in SAI between DLB and control participants (Nardone *et al.*, 2006), two further studies challenged these findings, with significant reductions in SAI (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2007b; Marra *et al.*, 2011). The initial study by Nardone *et al.* was criticised for the use of outdated diagnostic criteria for DLB and for the lack of randomisation when performing SAI under different conditions. In keeping with outcomes in AD, administration of an AChE-I restored SAI in three out of four DLB patients (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2007b) and correlated with hallucination scores (Marra *et al.*, 2011). Recently SAI was also found to be impaired in Parkinson's disease dementia (PDD), with the degree of SAI correlating with tests of global plus specific cognitive functions (Celebi *et al.*, 2012).

Table 4-2 Studies to date on SAI in Lewy body diseases

Reference	Group, n	Age (mean), years	Disease duration	Diagnosis	Medications	Muscle used; ISIs tested	Main SAI findings	Other comments
<b>(Sailer <i>et al.</i>, 2003)</b>	PD = 10; C = 10	PD= 58.2; C= 59.5	PD = 7.4 years	Not discussed	Performed 'on' and 'off' DA meds	R + L FDI; ISI 20ms	SAI normal off med (~50% vs. controls ~65%), ↓ in 'on' state (~100%)	DA med ↓SAI on more affected side but not on less affected side (~60%). All patients right-handed
<b>(Di Lazzaro <i>et al.</i>, 2004a)</b>	PD = 3; C = 12	PD= 67.3; C= 73.1	'Newly diagnosed'	Not discussed	No DA meds	R + L FDI; ISIs N20 + 2-8ms	Enhanced SAI on affected side in PD (22.1%)	No difference between unaffected side of PD (54.1%) & controls (45.3%)
<b>(Nardone <i>et al.</i>, 2005)</b>	PD = 10 (6 with dementia); PSP = 8 (4 with dementia); C = 15	PD= 66.5; PSP= 68.2; C= 73.1	PD= 22.4; PSP= 19.1 months	PD-Ward and Gibb criteria PSP- not discussed Dementia- DSM-III-R criteria	No anticholinergic drugs or drugs affecting motor cortex excitability; 'off' DA meds	R or L FDI, depending on side affected by PD; ISIs N20 + 2-8ms	Enhanced SAI in PD (24.2%); no difference between PSP (44%) and controls (46.2%)	No separate data given on those with cognitive impairment. No correlation of SAI with cognitive scores
<b>(Nardone <i>et al.</i>, 2006)</b>	DLB = 10; AD = 13; C = 15	DLB= 71.2; AD= 69.6; C= 67.5	DLB= 30.6; AD= 32.2 months	DLB- McKeith 1996 consensus	No anticholinergics, DA, or meds	FDI (dominant hand); ISIs	SAI reduced in AD (84.2%) but not DLB (56.4%)	SAI performed without randomisation of

				criteria AD- NINCDS- ADRDA criteria	affecting motor cortex excitability	N20 + 2- 8ms	compared with controls (46.8%)	different conditions, and 1996 criteria (not revised) used for DLB diagnosis. No correlation of SAI with MMSE or DRS
<b>(Di Lazzaro et al., 2007b)</b>	DLB = 10; AD = 10; C = 10	DLB= 73.1; AD= 72.1; C= 72	DLB= 25.5; AD= 32.0 months	DLB- Revised consortium criteria 2005  AD- NINCDS- ADRDA criteria	No AChE-I or drugs affecting CNS	L FDI; ISIs N20 + 2- 8ms	SAI reduced in DLB (93.2%) and AD (90.8%) cf with controls (42.8%)	4 DLB patients also given AChE-I & SAI repeated- 3 showed large ↑ in SAI following drug
<b>(Sailer et al., 2007)</b>	PD + bilateral STN DBS = 7; C = 7	PD = 56.1; C = 56.0	PD = 14 years	Not discussed	'On' & 'off' DA meds	R or L FDI; ISI N20 + 3ms	SAI ↓ in MED- ON/STIM-OFF (~84%) state but normal in MED- ON/ STIM-ON (~54%)	Normal SAI in MED-OFF/STIM- OFF (~60%) state vs. MED-OFF/ STIM ON (~62%) controls (~56%)
<b>(Manganelli et al., 2009)</b>	PD+VH= 10; PD-VH= 12; C = 11	PD+VH = 70.4; PD-VH = 65.5; C = 62.4	PD+VH = 8.7; PD-VH = 9.0 years	Not discussed; Not demented	No anticholinergic or anti-depressant meds; 'on' medication	R or L FDI (according to most affected side); ISIs N20 + 2, 4 & 8ms	SAI reduced in PD+VH (89.4%) cf PD-VH (46.5%) & controls (46.4%). All PD - 66% SAI	MCI present in 16/22 PDs. PD+VH more impaired on tests of attention/ frontal & visuospatial functions
<b>(Marra et al., 2011)</b>	DLB = 18; AD = 18; C =	DLB = 73.0; AD = 71.8; C = 71.8	DLB = 28.8; AD = 34.0 months	DLB- Revised consortium	No AChE-I, antidepressant or	L FDI; ISIs N20 + 2-	SAI reduced in DLB (73.8%) and	SAI correlated with hallucinations in

	10			criteria 2005 AD- NINCDS- ADRDA criteria	antipsychotics	8ms	AD (85.3%) cf controls (42.8%)	DLB and euphoria in AD
<b>(Celebi et al., 2012)</b>	PD = 10; PDD = 10; AD = 10; C = 10	PD = 72.0; PDD = 75.0; AD = 76.1; C = 72.1	PD = 2.3; PDD = 8.4; AD = 2.8 years	PD- UK Brain Bank criteria PDD- MDS consensus criteria AD- NINCDS- ADRDA criteria	No anticholinergic or AChE-I; 'off' medication	R or L FDI; ISIs N20 + 1-8ms	SAI reduced in PDD (91.4%) & AD (94.7%) patients, but normal in PD (61.4%) & controls (55.5%)	Negative correlation between SAI & MMSE, attention, executive, memory & visuospatial function
<b>(Nardone et al., 2012a)</b>	PD+RBD = 10; PD-RBD = 13; C = 15	PD+RBD = 65.9; PD-RBD = 63.7; C = 66.4	PD+RBD = 5.0; PD-RBD = 6.0 years	PD- not discussed; RBD- American Academy of Sleep Medicine criteria	'On' DA medication; no anticholinergics or drugs affecting motor cortex excitability	R or L FDI, depending on handed- ness; ISIs N20 + 2- 8ms	SAI ↓ in PD+RBD (77.4%) vs. PD-RBD (49%) & controls (45.4%)	SAI values correlated with episodic verbal memory, executive and visuospatial function in PD
<b>(Rochester et al., 2012)</b>	PD = 22; C = 22	PD = 70.2; C = 67.4	PD = 19.8 months	QSBB criteria	'On' DA meds; off meds affecting cortical excitability	R or L FDI, depending on side affected; ISIs N20 – N20 + 4ms	SAI ↓ in PD (77%) vs. 54% in controls	↓ SAI independent determinant of gait speed, explaining 37% variability
<b>(Yarnall et al.,</b>	PD-MCI = 11; PD-CN =	PD-MCI = 73.3; PD-CN = 66.9;	PD-MCI = 20; PD-CN = 20.5	PD- QSBB	'On' DA meds; off meds affecting	R or L FDI, depending	SAI ↓ in PD-MCI (88.4%) vs. PD-	SAI negatively correlated with

<b>2013)</b>	11; C = 22	C = 67.9	months	criteria PD-MCI- MoCA <26	cortical excitability	on side affected; ISIs N20 – N20 + 4ms	CN (62.8%) & controls (55.7%)	MoCA in PD but not controls
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PD= Parkinson's disease; AD= Alzheimer's disease; DLB= dementia with Lewy bodies; C= healthy controls; PSP= progressive supranuclear palsy; DA= dopaminergic; AChE-I= acetylcholinesterase inhibitor; FDI= first dorsal interosseous; STN DBS= subthalamic nucleus deep brain stimulation; VH= visual hallucinations; RBD= REM sleep behaviour disorder; MMSE= mini mental state examination; DRS= Mattis Dementia Rating Scale; QSBB= Queen Square Brain Bank criteria; MCI= mild cognitive impairment; CN= cognitively normal; MoCA= Montreal Cognitive Assessment; cf=compared with.

A small study showed that in PD participants with subthalamic nucleus (STN) deep brain stimulation (DBS), SAI is normal in the 'off' state regardless of whether the stimulator is on (MED-OFF, STIM-ON or STIM-OFF, respectively), reduced in the MED-ON/STIM-OFF state and restored to normal in the MED-ON/STIM-ON condition (Sailer *et al.*, 2007). Possible mechanisms for the STN DBS normalisation hypothesised by the authors included alterations in neuronal firing patterns, increased motor cortex excitability or a direct effect on cortical structures (Sailer *et al.*, 2007).

A study in patients with PD and visual hallucinations, believed to reflect functional involvement of cortical cholinergic circuits, showed reduced SAI compared to those without hallucinations (Manganelli *et al.*, 2009). In this study, 16 of the 22 PD participants were also found to have MCI, with more severe impairments in tests probing attention/frontal lobe and visuospatial functions in those with hallucinations. Similarly, in PD plus RBD, where cholinergic degeneration is recognised (Kotagal *et al.*, 2012a) and which is a risk factor for dementia (Postuma *et al.*, 2012), SAI was reduced compared to PD participants without RBD and to controls (Nardone *et al.*, 2012a).

We examined SAI in our cohort of early PD patients (Rochester *et al.*, 2012; Yarnall *et al.*, 2013). SAI was reduced in PD compared to control subjects and was an independent predictor of gait speed in those with PD (Rochester *et al.*, 2012). Furthermore, SAI is decreased in PD-MCI, as defined by the Movement Disorder Society level 1 criteria (MoCA score < 26/30) (Yarnall *et al.*, 2013).

#### **4.2.5 Limitations of SAI studies in PD**

To date, studies in PD have been small and contradictory, with some studies demonstrating enhanced (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2004a; Nardone *et al.*, 2005), reduced (Sailer *et al.*, 2003; Sailer *et al.*, 2007; Rochester *et al.*, 2012) or normal SAI (Celebi *et al.*, 2012). The amount of inhibition seems to correlate with global cognitive function and tests of attention/executive, memory and possibly visuospatial function. Work thus far has been limited by small sample sizes, disease heterogeneity and additional pathologies. No studies have examined SAI in PD-MCI, where cholinergic dysfunction may contribute to the cognitive deficits (Meyer *et al.*, 2009). We therefore sought to determine the relationship between PD-MCI, cognition and SAI in a large cohort of well-characterised early PD participants.

### **4.3 Specific project methodology**

#### **4.3.1 Participants**

PD and control participants were recruited as part of the ICICLE-PD study in Newcastle (see Chapter 2). Due to timings of this specific project, the majority of PD subjects were tested as part of their 18 month assessments as a convenience sample (see Results for details), whilst most of the controls underwent SAI at baseline. Neuropsychological and clinical assessments were performed as discussed in Chapter 2. Exclusion criteria were those participants with contraindications to magnetic stimulation (including metallic heart valve, cranial aneurysm clips, previous seizures), co-morbid diseases that could potentially affect somatosensory evoked potentials (such as a peripheral neuropathy or myelopathy) and a tremor score of >2 on the MDS-UPDRS (Goetz *et al.*, 2008b), as this adversely affects electromyogram (EMG) readings. The SAI protocol used in these experiments was based on the method described by Tokimura and colleagues (Tokimura *et al.*, 2000) and followed international consensus criteria (Chipchase *et al.*, 2012). SAI was performed off medications affecting the central nervous system where possible (including benzodiazepines and antidepressants), and 'on' dopaminergic medications to reduce patient discomfort and improve acceptability of the protocol. Anticholinergic drugs were stopped for at least five days prior to testing, and no participants were taking cholinesterase inhibitors. The technician performing TMS was blinded to the cognitive status of participants.

#### **4.3.2 Recordings**

Surface EMGs were recorded from abductor pollicis brevis (APB) and first dorsal interosseous (FDI) of the most symptomatic (patients) or the dominant upper limb (controls) with adhesive Ag-AgCl gel electrodes (Biosense Medical Ltd). The active electrode was placed over the muscle belly and the reference electrode over the proximal metacarpophalangeal joint. Somatosensory evoked potentials (SEPs) were recorded via adhesive electrodes (Neuroline 720, Ambu, Denmark) applied to the scalp (contralateral to median nerve stimulation; see below) after appropriate skin preparation, using a bipolar montage with the non-inverting electrode 2cm anterior to C3/C4 (according to the 10-20 system), the inverting electrode 2cm posterior to C3/C4

(depending on the side of stimulation) and the reference electrode placed on the forehead.

Signals were amplified (EMG gain 1000-2000; EEG gain 50k) and bandpass filtered (EMG 30 Hz-2kHz; EEG 3Hz-2kHz), using a Digitimer D360 system (Letchworth Garden City, Herts, UK), before being digitised at 5kHz by a Power1401 interface (Cambridge Electronic Design Ltd, Cambridge, UK) connected to a computer running Spike2 software (Cambridge Electronic Design Ltd).

#### **4.3.3 Nerve stimulation**

SEPs were obtained by stimulating the median nerve in the more symptomatic arm in patients and on the dominant side in controls. Stimuli (single pulses; pulse width 200 $\mu$ s; range 4 to 25 mA) were delivered to the median nerve at the wrist using a constant current stimulator (Digitimer DS7A) via adhesive electrodes (cathode proximal; Biosense Medical Ltd). The intensity of the stimulus was adjusted to just above motor threshold, as determined by a visible twitch in the APB muscle.

#### **4.3.4 Magnetic stimulation**

Transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) of the motor cortex was performed using a high power Magstim 200 (Magstim Co. Whitland, Dyfed, Wales) and circular TMS coil (130mm diameter). The vertex (Cz) was measured using standard procedures and marked with indelible ink. The circular coil was then placed with the vertex marker positioned in the centre of the coil and the handle of the coil (held by the experimenter) posterior. An anticlockwise coil current was used to stimulate the left hemisphere (right hand) and a clockwise coil-current for the right hemisphere (left hand). The direction of the coil current used (and therefore the hemisphere stimulated) varied between patients (and controls). In PD patients TMS was delivered to the hemisphere opposite the most affected side, whereas in controls the dominant hemisphere was targeted. Motor evoked potentials (MEPs) were recorded from the contralateral FDI muscle. Resting motor threshold (RMT) was determined as the percentage of maximum stimulator output which elicited a liminal MEP (approximately 50 $\mu$ V in 5 out of 10 trials) at rest. MEPs were digitized (see above) and stored for later analysis, when they were analysed blind to the diagnostic category.

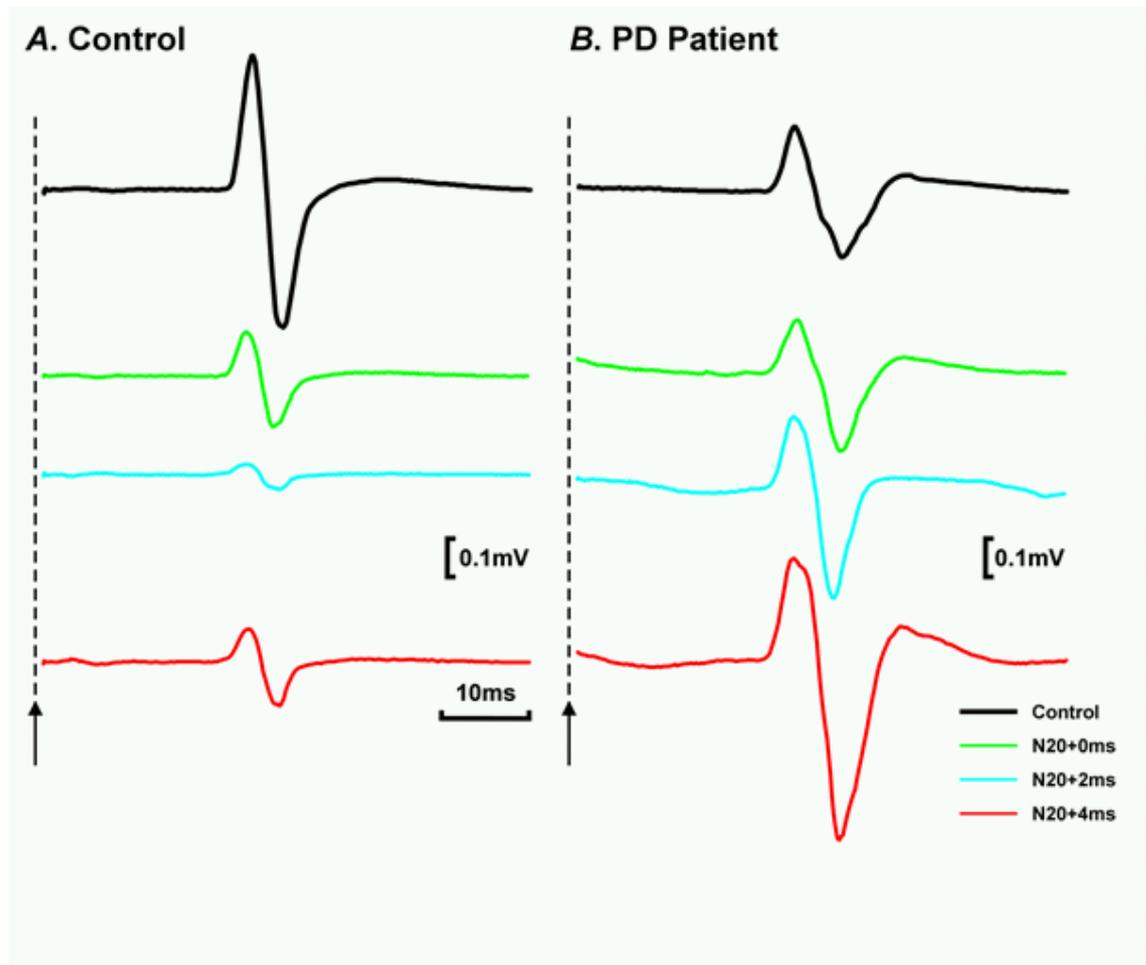
#### **4.3.5 Short latency afferent inhibition**

MEPs were conditioned by median nerve stimulation. Conditioning stimuli delivered to the median nerve preceded cortical TMS by varying interstimulus intervals (ISIs). These were determined relative to the latency of the N20 component of the average SEP to median nerve stimulation (averages of 2000 raw sweeps). SAI was randomly tested at five different ISIs with 10 trials at each ISI (from N20 in 1ms increments until N20+4ms), with 20 unconditioned (test) stimuli also delivered randomly (Figure 4-1). The peak to peak amplitude of the conditioned MEPs at each ISI were averaged and expressed as a percentage of the averaged unconditioned MEP (basal MEP). To reduce variability, the conditioned responses were combined across all ISIs and expressed as the percentage of the unconditioned MEP to provide a grand mean of SAI, as described by others (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2000; Nardone *et al.*, 2008a). Participants were given visual feedback to maximise complete relaxation, and any EMGs contaminated by interference were excluded.

#### **4.3.6 Statistics**

Statistics were carried out as for Chapter 2 and 3. In addition, analysis of variance (ANOVA) and analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) were also performed. The assumption of homogeneity of variance was not violated (Levene Statistic  $p > 0.05$ ). Our *a priori* hypotheses were that PD participants would have decreased SAI compared to controls, and that those with PD-MCI would have a further decrement compared to the PD-CN group. Therefore, in the ANOVA analysis, *contrast 1* compared PD vs. controls, and *contrast 2* PD-MCI vs. PD-CN participants. Polynomial linear trends were established, with the groups coded as control=1, PD-CN=2 and PD-MCI=3 and weighted as -2, +1 and +1, respectively for *contrast 1* and 0, +1 and -1, respectively for *contrast 2*. Significance values are reported as one-tailed with a p value of  $< 0.05$  taken as significant. Hochberg's GT2 post hoc pairwise comparisons (as the samples sizes were different) reported for the comparisons between PD-MCI vs. controls and PD-CN vs. control subjects. Further analyses were performed using ANCOVA to control for influences on SAI. Simple planned contrasts were performed and adjusted means calculated.

Figure 4-1 Short latency afferent inhibition. Conditioned and unconditioned motor evoked potentials (MEPs) recorded from: **A.** A control subject (aged 66); **B.** A patient with Parkinson's disease (aged 83). Baseline (unconditioned) MEPs are plotted in black and conditioned MEPs are plotted in colour (time intervals between the conditioning median nerve stimulation and the TMS test pulse are shown in parentheses): green (N20); blue (N20+2ms); and red (N20+4ms). Average MEPs (n=20) have been plotted.



## 4.4 Results

### 4.4.1 General and clinical characteristics

Recruitment of participants for this study is outlined in Figure 4-2. Five PD subjects were recruited at baseline, and the remainder at their 18 month assessments, due to the timing of an ethical amendment. The majority of controls were approached at baseline, but to increase numbers, additional participants who had not previously undergone TMS were consented when reviewed at 18 months. Five PD participants declined to take part. A number were unable to undergo SAI (PD n=13, controls n=15); reasons included previous seizures (n=3), metallic prostheses (n=15), use of anticholinergic and other medications that affect SAI that could not be stopped prior to testing (n=3) and significant co-morbid disease including sensory axonal neuropathy and cervical myelopathy (n=7). Six subjects could not tolerate either the median nerve stimulation or TMS required to produce meaningful MEPs. Other reasons for not obtaining SAI data included technical issues (for example, no clear N20 obtained), tremor score and participants not approached due to the timings of their assessments. Lastly, following SAI evaluation, nine were subsequently excluded due to poor quality EMG recordings, drug effects and one due to re-diagnosis from PD to progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP).

Comparisons of participants who were available for SAI (PD n=87 (1 participant excluded due to PSP), control n=86) who did and did not undergo SAI are shown in Table 4-3. PD participants who underwent SAI had less severe motor disease (MDS UPDRS 3 score 30.9 vs. 36.7,  $p=0.033$ ) and had better MMSE scores (28.8 vs. 28.0,  $p=0.017$ ) than those who did not, but were otherwise well-matched. Controls undergoing SAI scored higher (i.e. better function) on MoCA, MMSE and spatial recognition memory (SRM) scores than those who did not, but otherwise the group was representative. General and clinical comparisons of those PD and control participants who had SAI performed are shown in Table 4-4. There were no significant differences in age, gender, handedness or years of education between the groups. PD subjects scored higher on depression scores and lower on the majority of cognitive tests than controls, with the exception of digit vigilance, verbal fluency, pentagon score and language. Memory sub-scores were unavailable for one PD participant

(refused computerised testing); with attention scores unavailable for a different PD subject (missing data).

Figure 4-2 Flow diagram of recruitment of SAI

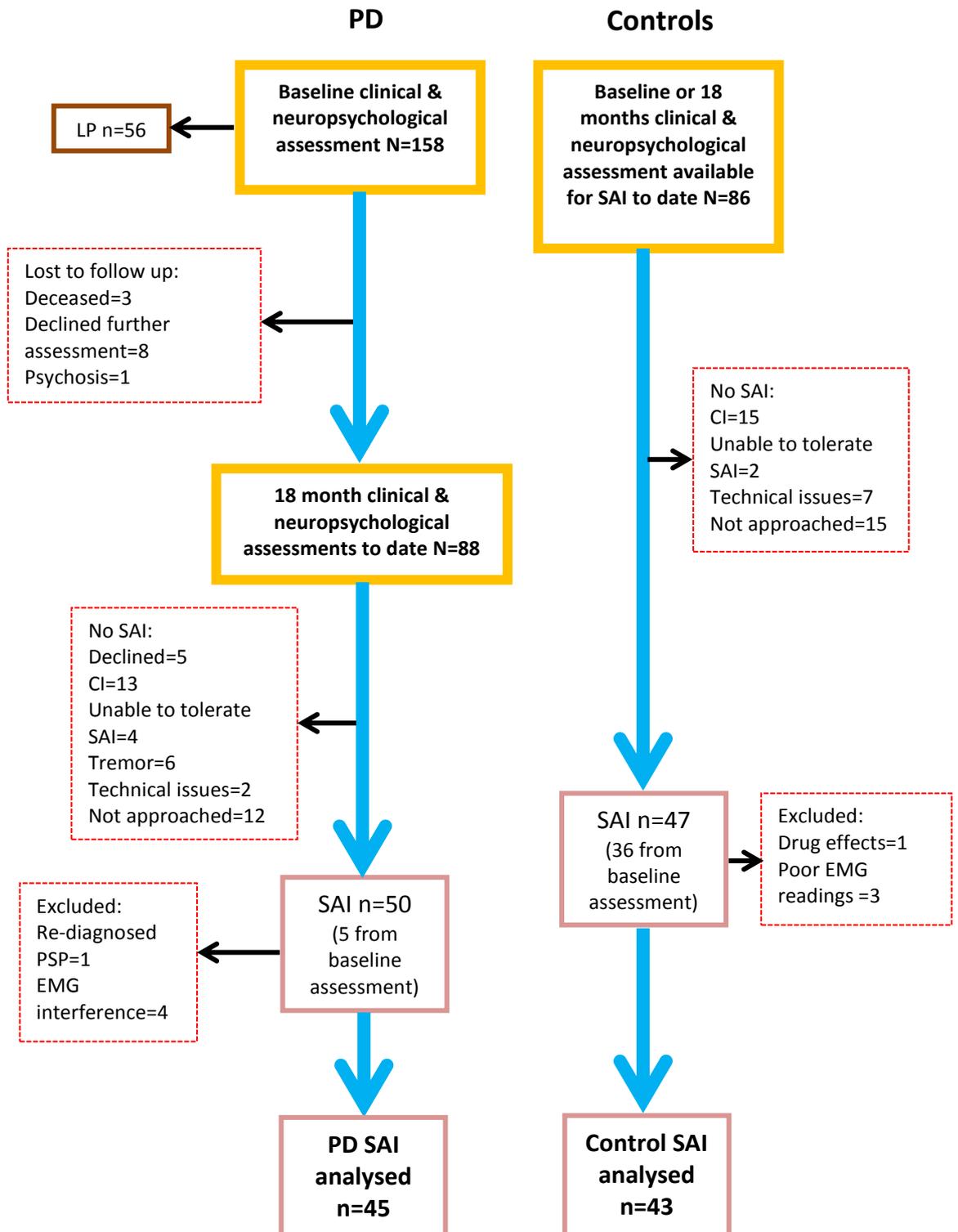


Table 4-3 Comparisons of participants who did and did not undergo SAI

Characteristic	Control			PD		
	SAI- (n=43)	SAI+ (n=43)	<i>p</i>	SAI- (n=42)	SAI+ (n=45)	<i>p</i>
Age (yrs) <sup>a</sup>	67.0	69.2	0.240	67.5	69.3	0.396
Male gender (%) <sup>b</sup>	24 (56)	26 (61)	0.662	27 (64)	28 (62)	0.842
Education (yrs)	13.0	13.4	0.481	13.8	12.7	0.241
Disease duration (mo)	-	-	-	22.7	21.4	0.882
UPDRS 3 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	36.7	30.9	<b>0.033*</b>
LEDD (mg/d) <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	374.7	331.5	0.285
PIGD score	-	-	-	0.87	0.71	0.233
Non-TD phenotype (n,%) <sup>b</sup>	-	-	-	25 (60)	30 (67)	0.490
GDS	1.0	0.8	0.341	2.9	2.6	0.190
MoCA	26.8	28.0	<b>0.034*</b>	25.3	25.9	0.517
MMSE	28.8	29.4	<b>0.013*</b>	28.0	28.8	<b>0.017*</b>
PoA (msec)	1279	1271	0.705	1410	1358	0.311
Digit Vigilance (%)	95.9	97.0	0.273	92.1	92.2	0.561
PRM	20.7	21.2	0.189	20.4	19.7	0.274
SRM	15.8	16.8	<b>0.021*</b>	15.0	15.1	0.710
PAL	2.0	1.8	0.072	2.3	2.1	0.665
OTS	16.0	17.1	0.194	13.3	15.1	0.079
Phonemic fluency <sup>a</sup>	39.0	41.5	0.338	37.7	37.0	0.824
Semantic fluency <sup>a</sup>	23.9	24.9	0.438	21.3	22.4	0.466
Pentagon	1.9	2.0	0.309	1.8	1.8	0.514
Language	4.5	4.7	0.219	4.4	4.6	0.153

<sup>a</sup>Unpaired t-test; <sup>b</sup>Chi-squared test; remainder used Mann-Whitney; Values are mean (%); PoA=power of attention; PRM=pattern recognition memory; SRM=spatial recognition memory; PAL=paired associates learning; OTS=one touch stockings of Cambridge.

Table 4-4 Demographic and descriptive data for PD and control participants who underwent SAI

Characteristic	Control (n=43)	PD (n=45)	p value
Age <sup>a</sup>	69.2 (8.4, 50.6-89.7)	69.3 (10.3, 45.0-88.8)	0.939
Male gender <sup>b</sup>	26 (60.5%)	28 (62.2%)	0.866
Handedness (R/L) <sup>c</sup>	40/3	40/5	0.714
Education	13.4 (3.5)	12.7 (3.5)	0.347
GDS	0.8 (1.4)	2.6 (3.3)	<b>0.001*</b>
MoCA	28.0 (1.9)	25.9 (4.1)	<b>0.018*</b>
MMSE	29.4 (0.8)	28.8 (1.4)	<b>0.018*</b>
PoA	1271 (145)	1358 (186)	<b>0.025*</b>
Digit vigilance	97.0 (4.9)	92.2 (14.4)	0.095
PRM	21.2 (2.4)	19.7 (3.0)	<b>0.012*</b>
SRM	16.8 (1.7)	15.1 (3.0)	<b>0.009*</b>
PAL	1.8 (0.7)	2.1 (0.7)	<b>0.028*</b>
OTS	17.1 (1.8)	15.1 (4.1)	<b>0.008*</b>
Phonemic fluency <sup>a</sup>	41.5 (12.2)	37.0 (13.5)	0.108
Semantic fluency <sup>a</sup>	24.9 (5.7)	22.4 (8.0)	0.098
Pentagon	2.0 (0.2)	1.8 (0.5)	0.056
Language	4.7 (0.6)	4.6 (0.8)	0.295

<sup>a</sup>Unpaired t-test; <sup>b</sup>Chi-squared test; <sup>c</sup>Fisher's exact test; remainder used Mann-Whitney; Values are mean (SD, range for age).

#### 4.4.2 General neurophysiology results

Recordings were made from the dominant hand in control subjects (40 right-handed and 3 left-handed) and in the side of onset or most symptomatic arm in participants with PD (27 right-dominant disease, of whom 25 were right-handed, and 18 left-dominant disease, of whom 3 were left-handed). Neurophysiological parameters for both groups are shown in Table 4-5. There were no significant differences in N20, median nerve motor threshold or resting motor threshold between PD and controls. Mean SAI was significantly reduced in PD compared to control participants (77.4% of MEP test response vs. 59.0%,  $p=0.001$ , unpaired t-test), although individual responses varied widely (Figure 4-4). The amount of inhibition showed a trend towards a

reduction in PD participants at the N20 interval ( $p=0.102$ ), but was significantly less at N20+1 to N20+4ms ( $p=0.031$ ,  $p=0.012$ ,  $p=0.001$  and  $p<0.001$ , respectively). Figure 4-4 demonstrates that there was an obvious outlier in both the control and PD groups (control SAI=128.6%, PD SAI=181.6%). These figures were checked, with no obvious reason for the lack of inhibition (for example, no medications implicated); therefore they were included in the final analyses. Removing these and re-analysing the difference in SAI did not alter the overall significance (PD mean SAI  $57.3 \pm 19.7\%$ , control mean SAI  $75.1 \pm 24.7\%$ ,  $p<0.001$ ). Figure 4-3 shows the difference in SAI at each interstimulus interval in both groups, with a clear separation at each interstimulus interval.

Table 4-5 Neurophysiological parameters of PD and control participants

	Control	PD	P value
<b>N20 (ms)</b>	22.0 (2.7)	22.2 (1.7)	0.698
<b>MNMT (mA)</b>	11.6 (4.4)	11.4 (4.8)	0.806
<b>RMT (% max stim)</b>	40.0 (5.8)	39.3 (6.6)	0.655
<b>SAI</b>	59.0 (22.3)	77.4 (29.2)	<b>0.001*</b>

Data are mean (SD); MNMT=median nerve motor threshold; RMT=resting motor threshold of maximum stimulator output; p values obtained using unpaired t-test.

Figure 4-3 Short latency afferent inhibition for PD and control participants at each interstimulus interval ; \*p<0.05

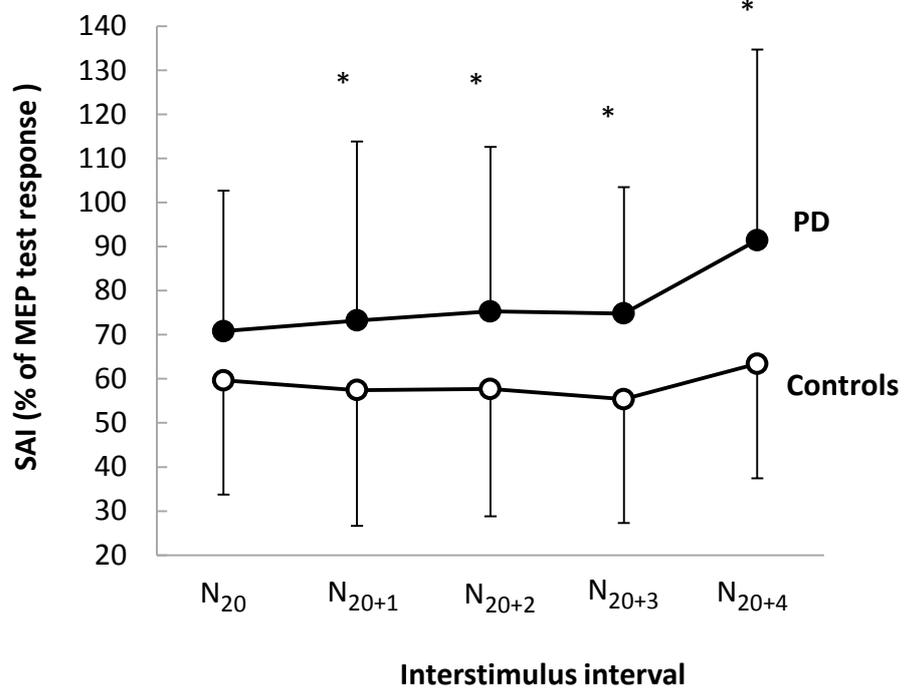
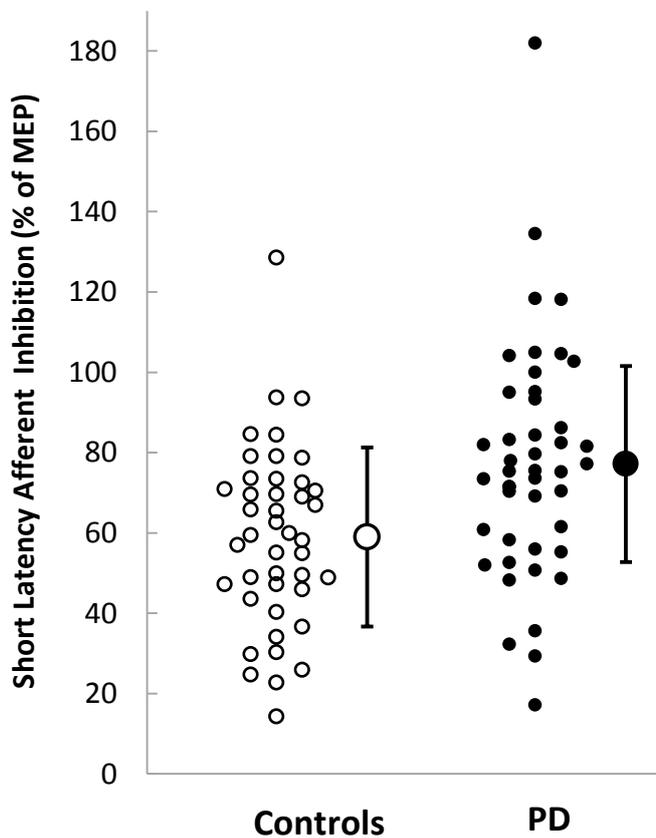


Figure 4-4 Scatterplot of percentage inhibition of SAI in PD and control subjects ; mean and SD are also displayed



#### **4.4.3 Short latency afferent inhibition analysis**

The relationship between SAI and clinical characteristics for all participants are shown in Figure 4-5. There was a significant association between age and SAI, with the amount of inhibition reduced as age increased ( $r=0.325$ ,  $p=0.002$ , Pearson's  $r$ ). A negative correlation was found between SAI and years of education and global cognitive score as measured by MoCA ( $r=-0.317$ ,  $p=0.003$  and  $r=-0.238$ ,  $p=0.023$ , respectively, Spearman's rho). There was no correlation between SAI and depression score ( $r=0.124$ ,  $p=0.249$ , Spearman's rho). These findings were largely influenced by the PD group, as when analysed separately, SAI correlated with age only in the control group ( $r=0.303$ ,  $p=0.048$ ), with no correlation seen between SAI and years of education or MoCA ( $r=-0.129$ ,  $p=0.410$  and  $r=.148$ ,  $p=0.345$ , respectively). In all participants there was no significant difference in SAI between males and females (70.5% vs. 65.1%, respectively,  $p=0.373$ , unpaired t-test). PD subjects demonstrated a positive correlation with SAI and age ( $r=0.366$ ,  $p=0.013$ ), and a negative correlation between SAI and years of education completed ( $r=-0.445$ ,  $p=0.002$ ), MoCA score ( $r=-0.410$ ,  $p=0.005$ ) and MMSE ( $r=-0.336$ ,  $p=0.024$ , Spearman's rho). There was no association between the amount of inhibition and GDS, disease duration, disease severity (as measured by MDS UPDRS 3), PIGD score or LEDD ( $r=0.097$ ,  $r=-0.106$ ,  $r=0.236$ ,  $r=0.016$  and  $r=-0.031$ , respectively, Spearman's rho).

#### **4.4.4 Short latency afferent inhibition and cognition**

SAI was examined in relation to cognition in PD and control participants. Initially participants were classified by control group, cognitively normal PD (PD-CN) and PD with mild cognitive impairment (PD-MCI) according to the MDS level 1 criteria (a MoCA score of less than 26). General characteristics of each group are shown in Table 4-6. There were significant group differences for age, years in education, GDS, disease severity, MoCA score and SAI (for SAI,  $F(2, 85) = 11.96$ ,  $p<0.001$ ). The planned contrasts revealed a significant difference between PD and controls ( $t(85) = 4.06$ ,  $p<0.001$  (one-tailed)), and that the PD-MCI group had significantly less inhibition than the PD-CN ( $93.4 \pm 30.6\%$  vs.  $67.7 \pm 24.0\%$ ) group ( $t(85) = -3.40$ ,  $p<0.001$  (one-tailed)). Post hoc tests (Hochberg's GT2) revealed a significant difference between PD-MCI vs. controls ( $p<0.001$ ), but no difference between PD-CN and control participants ( $67.7 \pm 24.0\%$  vs.  $59.0 \pm 22.3\%$ ,  $p=0.376$ ). There was, however, a large degree of overlap

between the groups (Figure 4-6). Excluding the two SAI outliers as discussed above did not affect the overall results.

Table 4-6 Characteristics of controls, PD cognitively normal (PD-CN) and PD mild cognitive impairment (PD-MCI), according to MDS level 1 MCI criteria

	<b>Control (n=43)</b>	<b>PD-CN (n=28)</b>	<b>PD-MCI (n=17)</b>	<b>p</b>
<b>Age (yrs)<sup>a</sup></b>	69.2	65.3	76.0	<b>0.001*</b>
<b>Male gender (n, %)<sup>b</sup></b>	26 (61)	16 (57)	12 (71)	0.659
<b>Education (yrs)</b>	13.4	13.9	10.9	<b>0.001*</b>
<b>Disease duration (mo)</b>	-	21.7	20.8	0.682
<b>MDS UPDRS<sup>a</sup></b>	-	27.3	36.8	<b>0.003*</b>
<b>LEDD (mg/d)<sup>a</sup></b>	-	341.3	315.5	0.597
<b>GDS</b>	0.8	2.3	3.3	<b>0.003*</b>
<b>MoCA</b>	28.0	28.4	21.8	<b>&lt;0.001*</b>
<b>SAI (% , SD)<sup>a</sup></b>	59.0 (22.3)	67.7 (24.0)	93.4 (30.6)	<b>&lt;0.001*</b>

Data are mean (SD for SAI); <sup>a</sup>ANOVA; <sup>b</sup>Pearson Chi-Squared; remainder used Kruskal-Wallis test.

Figure 4-5 Scatter plots demonstrating the relationship between SAI and clinical characteristics in PD and control subjects; A) SAI and age; B) SAI and MoCA score; C) SAI and years of education

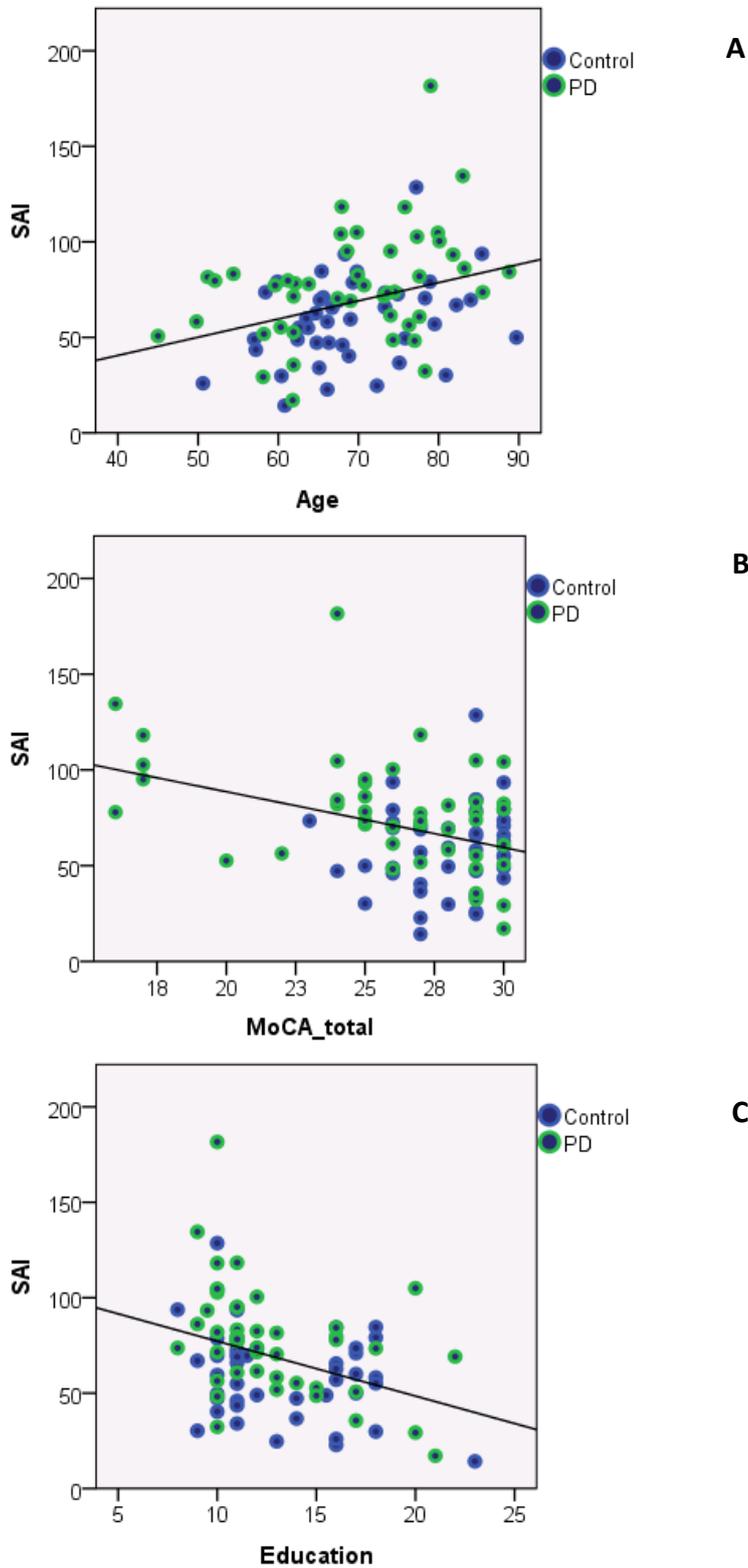
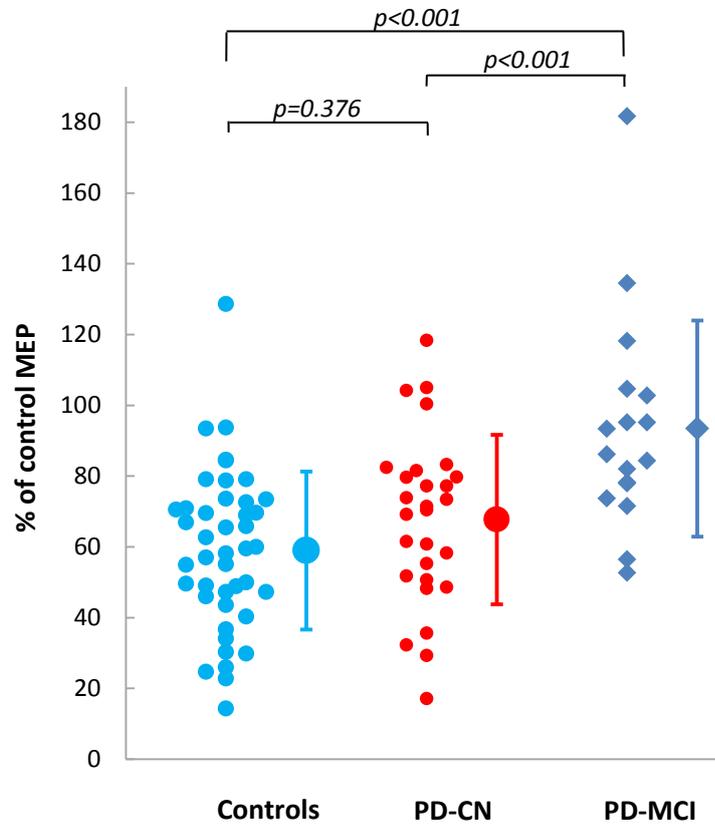


Figure 4-6 Scatter plot showing mean values of SAI for controls, PD cognitively normal (PD-CN) and PD mild cognitive impairment (PD-MCI) according to level 1 criteria ; error bars are SDs



The group differences in SAI remained after controlling for age, education and GDS in an ANCOVA ( $F(2, 82) = 6.97, p < 0.01$ ), although simple planned contrasts revealed that only the PD-MCI showed significantly less inhibition compared to the control group (adjusted mean SAI 86.8 vs. 59.4%;  $t(82) = -3.64, p < 0.001$ ) but not compared to PD-CN (adjusted mean SAI 86.8 vs. 71.2%;  $t(82) = -1.93, p > 0.05$ ). The difference between PD-CN and control subjects was also not significant (adjusted mean 71.2 vs. 59.4%,  $p = 0.057$ ). Disease severity using MDS UPDRS was not controlled for, due to a lack of association between SAI (see above) or cognition (see Chapter 2).

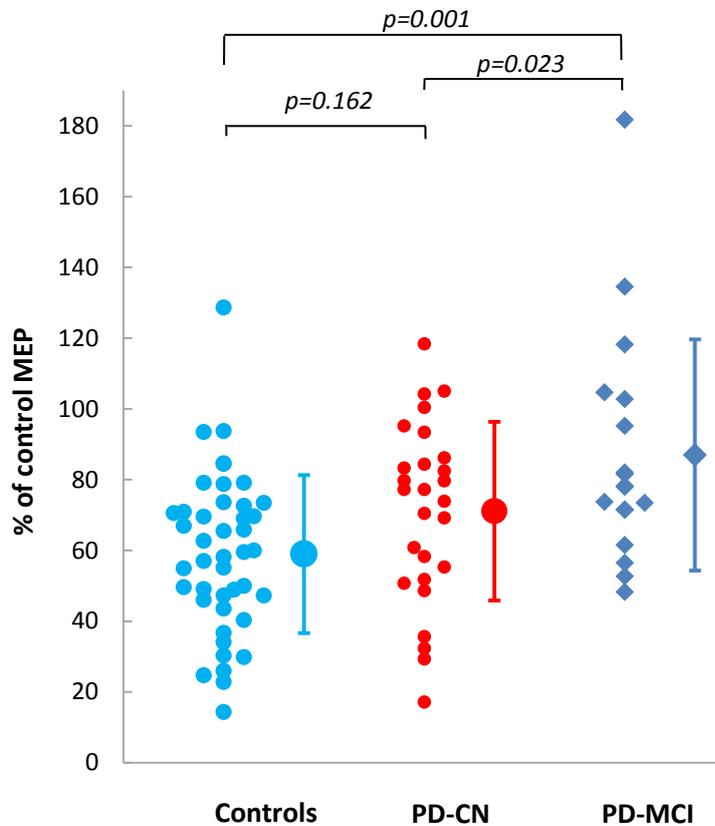
When PD participants were classified as PD-CN ( $n = 27$ ) or PD-MCI ( $n = 18$ ) using level 2 criteria at 1.5 SDs below normative values (see Chapter 2 for details of methods), there was again a significant difference in the amount of inhibition across the PD-MCI, PD-CN and control groups ( $87.0 \pm 32.7\%$  vs.  $71.1 \pm 25.2\%$  vs.  $59.0 \pm 22.3\%$ , respectively,  $F(2, 85) = 7.80, p < 0.001$ ) (Table 4-7), but with considerable overlap between participants

(Figure 4-7). Planned contrasts revealed that there was a significant difference between PD vs. controls ( $t(85) = 3.64, p < 0.001$  (one-tailed)), and that the PD-MCI group had significantly less inhibition than PD-CN subjects ( $t(85) = -2.04, p < 0.05$  (one-tailed)). In post hoc tests (Hochberg's GT2), there was a significant difference in inhibition between the PD-MCI and control group ( $p = 0.001$ ) but not PD-CN and control subjects ( $p = 0.162$ ).

Table 4-7 Characteristics of control, PD-CN and PD-MCI groups according to MDS level 2 criteria

	<b>Control (n=43)</b>	<b>PD-CN (n=27)</b>	<b>PD-MCI (n=18)</b>	<b>p</b>
<b>Age (yrs)<sup>a</sup></b>	69.2	67.1	72.6	0.157
<b>Male gender (n, %)<sup>b</sup></b>	26 (61)	16 (59)	12 (67)	0.870
<b>Education (yrs)</b>	13.4	13.7	11.4	<b>0.039*</b>
<b>Disease duration (mo)</b>	-	22.2	20.2	0.531
<b>MDS UPDRS<sup>a</sup></b>	-	28.0	35.1	<b>0.030*</b>
<b>LEDD (mg/d)<sup>a</sup></b>	-	326.9	338.5	0.809
<b>GDS</b>	0.8	2.5	2.9	<b>0.003*</b>
<b>MoCA</b>	28.0	28.2	22.6	<b>&lt;0.001*</b>
<b>SAI (% , SD)<sup>a</sup></b>	59.0 (22.3)	71.1 (25.2)	87.0 (32.7)	<b>&lt;0.001*</b>

Figure 4-7 Scatter plot of mean SAI values for controls, PD-CN and PD-MCI according to MDS level 2 criteria



After controlling for age, education and GDS in an ANCOVA, these group differences remained significant ( $F(2, 82) = 5.56, p < 0.01$ ). In planned simple contrasts, PD-MCI participants had significantly reduced inhibition compared to the control group (adjusted mean SAI 81.9 vs. 59.5%;  $t(82) = -3.11, p < 0.01$ ) but not PD-CN subjects (adjusted mean 73.7%;  $t(82) = -1.09, p > 0.1$ ). The control group demonstrated a greater degree of SAI compared to PD-CN ( $p = 0.026$ ). The analysis was repeated excluding the two outliers (one from the control and one from PD-MCI group), which did not alter the results.

Finally, those PD subjects with level 2 MCI at 1.5 SDs below normative values ( $n = 18$ ) were then examined. Mean SAI values were compared in those with single- ( $n = 10$ ) and multiple- ( $n = 8$ ) domain MCI. No significant difference was seen between the groups (single  $79.1 \pm 26.0\%$  vs. multiple  $96.8 \pm 39.0\%$ ,  $p = 0.268$ ). In addition, when dichotomised into amnesic ( $n = 9$ ) vs. nonamnesic ( $n = 9$ ) MCI, there was no difference in inhibition (SAI  $80.9 \pm 22.4\%$  vs.  $93.0 \pm 41.1\%$ , respectively,  $p = 0.450$ ). When

amnesic/nonamnesic was entered into a binary logistic regression model as the dependent variable, with age, education and SAI as co-variables, the model chi-square was non-significant, plus SAI was not a significant determinant (chi-square(3) = 3.50,  $p > 0.05$ ; SAI  $B = .007$ ,  $p = 0.678$ ). Results were similar for single/multiple-domain (model chi-square(3) = 1.78,  $p > 0.05$ ; SAI  $B = .018$ ,  $p = 0.326$ ). The small numbers impaired may mean that these analyses are underpowered to detect differences between the groups.

#### **4.4.5 Cognitive domains and short latency afferent inhibition**

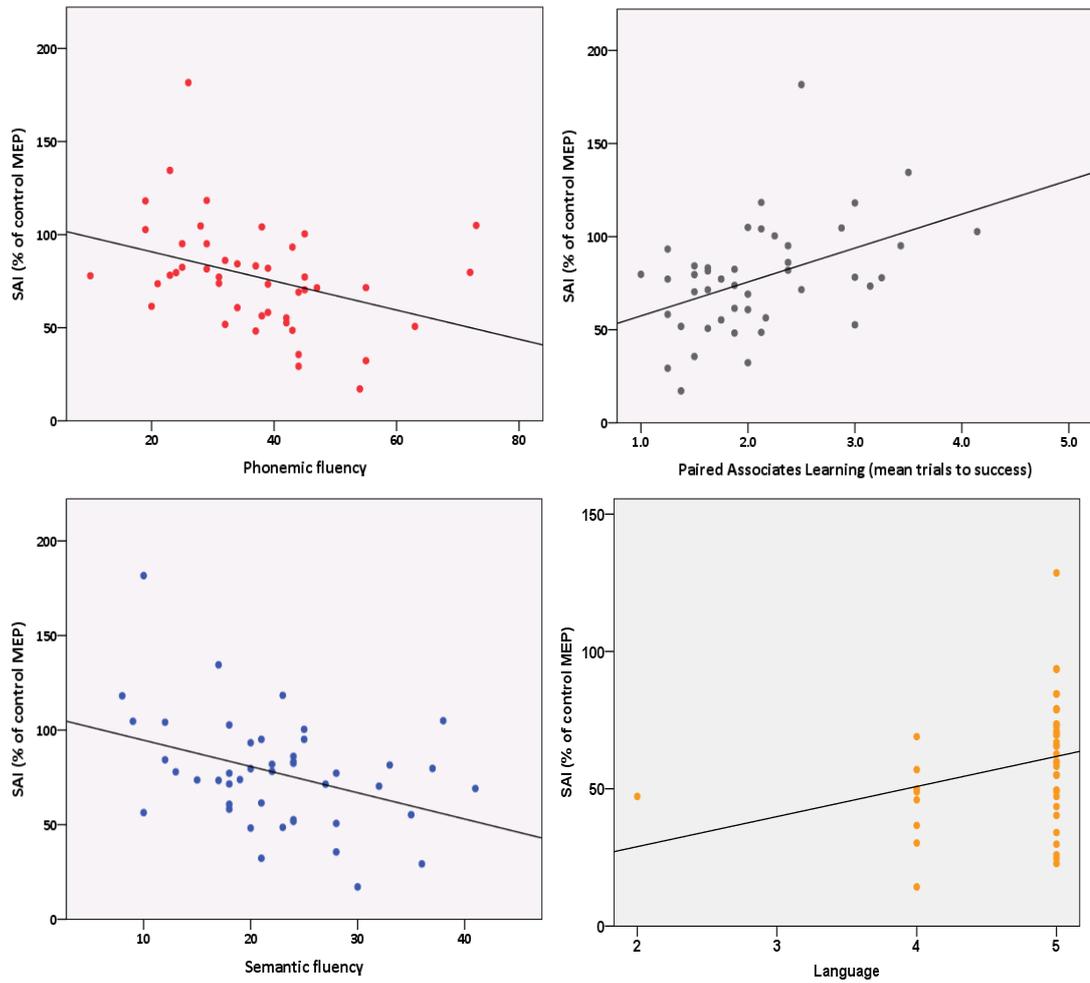
Associations between SAI and cognitive variables in the PD and control subjects were examined using simple bivariate correlations, shown in Table 4-8. There were negative correlations between SAI and both phonemic and semantic fluency in PD but not control participants ( $r = -0.362$ ,  $p = 0.015$ ;  $r = -0.380$ ,  $p = 0.010$ , respectively, Pearson's  $r$ ), with higher scores on verbal fluency correlating with greater inhibition of MEP response. In addition, a significant positive correlation was found between paired associates learning (PAL) and SAI in PD subjects ( $r = 0.439$ ,  $p = 0.003$ , Spearman's  $\rho$ ). PAL (mean trials to success) is a visuospatial test of learning and memory, with a higher score indicating a greater degree of impairment; therefore here a higher score correlated with reduced inhibition. Scatter plots of these correlations are shown in Figure 4-8. Although a significant correlation was found between language score and SAI in controls, it can be seen from Figure 4-8 that the relationship was non-linear and therefore violated one of the assumptions for correlation.

Table 4-8 Bivariate analysis of explanatory cognitive variables for SAI in PD and control subjects

	Control (n=43)	PD (n=45)
<b>Power of Attention (PoA)</b>		
r	0.226	0.095
p value	0.145	0.541
<b>Digit vigilance</b>		
r	0.108	-0.210
p value	0.490	0.170
<b>Pattern recognition memory (PRM)</b>		
r	-0.196	-0.238
P value	0.208	0.120
<b>Spatial recognition memory (SRM)</b>		
r	-0.062	0.026
p value	0.692	0.866
<b>Paired associates learning (PAL)</b>		
r	-0.064	<b>0.439</b>
p value	0.684	<b>0.003*</b>
<b>One touch stockings (OTS)</b>		
r	-0.180	-0.185
p value	0.249	0.228
<b>Phonemic fluency<sup>a</sup></b>		
r	0.058	<b>-0.362</b>
p value	0.712	<b>0.015*</b>
<b>Semantic fluency<sup>a</sup></b>		
r	0.029	<b>-0.380</b>
p value	0.855	<b>0.010*</b>
<b>Pentagon copying</b>		
r	0.112	-0.239
p value	0.475	0.114
<b>Language</b>		
r	<b>0.368</b>	-0.167
p value	<b>0.015*</b>	0.273

<sup>a</sup>Pearson's *r*; remainder used Spearman's rho

Figure 4-8 Scatter plots demonstrating relationships between SAI and phonemic fluency, PAL and semantic fluency in PD and SAI and language in control subjects



To further evaluate the relationship between cognition in PD and SAI, tests from each cognitive domain were entered into a linear regression model as the dependent variable and are shown below:

1. Global cognition (Montreal Cognitive Assessment)

Table 4-9 Regression model statistics and coefficients of variables for MoCA score in PD (n=44)

Independent	$\beta$	p value
<b>Model 1</b>		
Age	-.220	0.177
Education	.112	0.500
UPDRS III	-.358	0.053
Motor phenotype score	.155	0.284
GDS	.064	0.692
<b><math>R^2 = .315</math>; P-value of change= 0.011</b>		
<b>Model 2</b>		
Age	-.130	0.404
Education	.005	0.975
UPDRS III	-.353	<b>0.042*</b>
Motor phenotype score	.259	0.070
GDS	.097	0.523
SAI	-.388	<b>0.014*</b>
<b><math>R^2 = .419</math>; P-value of change= 0.014</b>		

In a bivariate analysis, MoCA score demonstrated a significant negative correlation with motor severity score ( $r=-0.497$ ,  $p=0.001$ , Spearman's rho) and near significant correlation with GDS ( $r=-0.269$ ,  $p=0.074$ ) and motor phenotype score (a greater score indicating more tremor-dominant features;  $r=0.291$ ,  $p=0.056$ ). Therefore, these factors plus age and education were entered into the regression model. A greater degree of inhibition (that is, a lower SAI percentage) was an independent determinant of MoCA score and independently explained 10% of variability (Table 4-9). In the final model, motor severity score and SAI were independent determinants, explaining 42% of variability. The regression model was repeated for control participants, with age, education then SAI entered into the model (Model 1  $R^2=.267$ , P-value of change=0.002; Model 2  $R^2=.365$ , P-value of change=0.018). The final model explained 37% of variability on MoCA score, with age ( $\beta=-.605$ ;  $p<0.001$ ) and SAI ( $\beta=.335$ ,  $p=0.018$ ) independent predictors of MoCA score. However, the relationship between SAI and MoCA score was positive, indicating that reduced inhibition (a greater SAI percentage)

predicted better function, which is not consistent with other results or indeed our knowledge of SAI.

## 2. Executive function (One Touch Stockings of Cambridge)

Table 4-10 Regression model statistics and coefficients of variables for OTS score (n=44)

Independent	$\beta$	p value
<b>Model 1</b>		
Age	.079	0.607
Education	.112	0.465
UPDRS III	-.524	<b>0.002*</b>
<b><math>R^2 = .303</math>; P-value of change= 0.002</b>		
<b>Model 2</b>		
Age	.118	0.458
Education	.058	0.720
UPDRS III	-.534	<b>0.002*</b>
SAI	-.143	0.357
<b><math>R^2 = .318</math>; P-value of change= 0.357</b>		

In addition to age and education, OTS displayed a significant negative association with UPDRS 3 score ( $r=-0.432$ ,  $p=0.003$ ), and only this motor severity score was significant in the final model, which explained 32% variability in OTS.

### 3. Executive function (phonemic and semantic fluency)

Table 4-11 Regression model statistics and coefficients of variables for phonemic fluency (n=45)

Independent	$\beta$	p value
<b>Model 1</b>		
Age	.093	0.521
Education	.333	<b>0.026*</b>
UPDRS III	-.418	<b>0.007*</b>
<i>R<sup>2</sup> = .359; P-value of change &lt; 0.001</i>		
<b>Model 2</b>		
Age	.142	0.338
Education	.264	0.087
UPDRS III	-.423	<b>0.006*</b>
SAI	-.201	0.160
<i>R<sup>2</sup> = .390; P-value of change= 0.160</i>		

As both tests of verbal fluency correlated with SAI, these were also included as part of executive function to further explore cognition. In a bivariate analysis of explanatory variables for both phonemic and semantic fluency, UPDRS 3 negatively correlated with test score ( $r=-0.525$ ,  $p<0.001$  for both, Pearson's  $r$ ). Age, years of education, motor severity and SAI explained 39% of the variance in phonemic fluency (Table 4-11), although only UPDRS 3 score was an independent predictor in the final model. Similarly, for semantic fluency, the aforementioned variables explained a high degree of variance (48%), but SAI was not an independent predictor of semantic fluency in the final model (Table 4-12).

Interestingly, when PD participants were dichotomised into whether they were or were not impaired on semantic fluency at 1 SD below normative values (normal,  $n=35$ , mean SAI= $70.7 \pm 23.1\%$  vs. impaired,  $n=10$ , mean SAI  $100.9 \pm 36.9\%$ ,  $p=0.003$ ); 1.5 SD below normal ( $n=38$ , SAI= $72.6 \pm 24.4\%$  vs. impaired  $n=7$ , SAI= $103.9 \pm 39.9\%$ ,  $p=0.007$ ); and 2 SD (normal,  $n=41$ , mean SAI= $73.8 \pm 24.1\%$  vs. impaired  $n=4$ , SAI= $115.2 \pm 51.6\%$ ,  $p=0.005$ ), significant differences were seen between normal and impaired groups. These differences remained robust after controlling for age, education and UPDRS 3 in

an ANCOVA. Differences were not seen in controls, or in PD participants who were subsequently dichotomised by phonemic fluency or PAL scores.

Table 4-12 Regression model statistics and coefficients of variables for semantic fluency (n=45)

Independent	$\beta$	p value
<b>Model 1</b>		
Age	-.170	0.202
Education	.425	<b>0.002*</b>
UPDRS III	-.261	0.058
<i>R<sup>2</sup> = .472; P-value of change &lt; 0.001</i>		
<b>Model 2</b>		
Age	-.146	0.285
Education	.392	<b>0.007*</b>
UPDRS III	-.263	0.058
SAI	-.096	0.466
<i>R<sup>2</sup> = .479; P-value of change= 0.466</i>		

#### 4. Attention (Power of Attention)

Table 4-13 Regression model statistics and coefficients of variables for PoA (n=44)

Independent	$\beta$	p value
<b>Model 1</b>		
Age	.296	0.075
Education	-.026	0.873
<i>R<sup>2</sup> = .094; P-value of change= 0.131</i>		
<b>Model 2</b>		
Age	.255	0.134
Education	.031	0.858
SAI	.172	0.316
<i>R<sup>2</sup> = .117; P-value of change= 0.316</i>		

PoA, a sum of reaction time scores, showed no correlations with other clinical or demographic characteristics in a bivariate analysis. Therefore only age and education were entered in to a model with SAI. These three variables together were a poor fit of

a model for PoA, explaining only 12% of variance, with non-significant P-values of change and no independent predictors in the final model.

5. Memory (paired associates learning)

Table 4-14 Regression model statistics and coefficient variables for PAL (n=44)

Independent	$\beta$	p value
<b>Model 1</b>		
Age	.314	0.058
Education	-.083	0.606
UPDRS III	.174	0.308
<b><math>R^2 = .219</math>; P-value of change= 0.018</b>		
<b>Model 2</b>		
Age	.223	0.171
Education	.038	0.818
UPDRS III	.196	0.235
SAI	.326	<b>0.042*</b>
<b><math>R^2 = .298</math>; P-value of change= 0.042</b>		

As part of the memory domain, paired associates learning (PAL) was assessed, as a significant correlation had been demonstrated between this variable and SAI. ‘Mean trials to success’ was used as the score within this test (with a greater score indicating worse performance), as this was used in Chapter 2 as part of the definition of mild cognitive impairment. PAL correlated with UPDRS 3 score in a bivariate association ( $r=0.323$ ,  $p=0.033$ , Spearman’s rho), therefore this plus age, education and SAI were entered into the regression model. The final model explained 30% of variance in PAL score, with only SAI an independent determinant ( $\beta=.328$ ,  $p=0.042$ ) explaining 8% of variability. Reduced inhibition (that is, a greater percentage SAI value) predicted a worse test score. The same model in control participants was not significant (Model 1  $R^2=.105$ , P-value of change=0.108; Model 2  $R^2=.124$ , P-value of change=0.367), and SAI was not an independent predictor ( $\beta=-.146$ ,  $p=0.367$ ).

6. Visuospatial function (pentagon score)

Table 4-15 Regression model statistics and coefficient variables for pentagon score (n=45)

Independent	$\beta$	p value
<b>Model 1</b>		
Age	-.164	0.308
Education	.228	0.158
<b><math>R^2 = .108</math>; P-value of change= 0.091</b>		
<b>Model 2</b>		
Age	-.144	0.386
Education	.200	0.245
SAI	-.082	0.626
<b><math>R^2 = .113</math>; P-value of change= 0.626</b>		

Pentagon score was not associated with other clinical variables on bivariate analysis. The final model explained only 11% of variance in pentagon score, and was not significantly better at predicting pentagon score than using the mean pentagon score, with no clinical characteristics independent determinants of visuospatial function. In addition, the assumptions for generalisation of the model were not met, with the standardised residual scores ranging from -3.5 to 0.974, and these were non-normally distributed.

## 7. Language

Table 4-16 Regression model statistics and coefficient variables for language (n=45)

Independent	$\beta$	p value
<b>Model 1</b>		
Age	-.001	0.998
Education	-.013	0.935
UPDRS III	-.421	<b>0.016*</b>
<i>R<sup>2</sup> = .175; P-value of change= 0.049</i>		
<b>Model 2</b>		
Age	.045	0.790
Education	-.078	0.652
UPDRS III	-.426	<b>0.015*</b>
SAI	-.187	0.252
<i>R<sup>2</sup> = .200; P-value of change= 0.252</i>		

Language scores demonstrated a trend towards a negative correlation with motor severity score ( $r=-0.275$ ,  $p=0.067$ ), therefore UPDRS 3 plus age and education were entered into the initial model, with these plus SAI explaining 20% of variability in language score. In the final model, only UPDRS was a significant determinant of language function, with increasing motor severity associated with poorer language score ( $\beta=-.426$ ,  $p=0.015$ ). Below is a summary table of the contributors to cognition discussed in this section, using clinical and SAI parameters in regression models.

Table 4-17 Summary table of independent contributors to cognitive assessments

	MoCA	OTS	Phonemic fluency	Semantic fluency	PoA	PAL	Pentagon	Language
Age								
Education				X				
UPDRS 3	X	X	X					X
LEDD								
GDS								
SAI	X					X		

X=significant determinant of cognition in the final regression model

#### **4.4.6 Hemispheric effects of short latency afferent inhibition**

To be certain that hemispheric effects had no impact on the results (Helmich *et al.*, 2005), PD patients in whom the dominant arm was not the most affected arm were excluded and the analysis limited to those in whom the most affected limb was the dominant limb (PD all = 28). These were compared to the control group in whom the dominant arm was tested (40 right-handed; 3 left-handed). Mean SAI was  $84.3 \pm 31.9\%$  for PD participants and  $59.0 \pm 22.3\%$  for controls ( $p < 0.001$ , unpaired t-test). ANOVA confirmed that SAI was significantly different across the groups when PD subjects were classified according to level 1 MCI criteria ( $F(1, 69) = 15.50$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), with PD-MCI ( $n=10$ ) showing significantly less inhibition than both PD-CN (mean SAI  $106.6\%$  vs.  $71.9\%$ ,  $p=0.002$ , Hochberg's GT2 post hoc test) and controls ( $p < 0.001$ ), but no difference between controls and PD-CN ( $p=0.179$ ). These differences were robust when controlling for age, education and depression score. Equally, differences between the groups were maintained when the PD participants were classified according to level 2 MCI criteria ( $F(2, 68) = 13.40$ ,  $p < 0.001$ , ANOVA). Moreover, after excluding left-hand dominant patients and controls, the results remained significant.

#### **4.5 Discussion**

These results demonstrate that cholinergic dysfunction occurs early in both PD and in PD-MCI, as evidenced by the fact that SAI is abnormal in these patients, but not in those with PD and normal cognition or in control participants. SAI may therefore serve as a biomarker of cholinergic dysfunction in a sub-group of people with PD who are at increased risk of dementia. This concept is strengthened by the finding that in PD but not control participants, greater SAI was an independent determinant of MoCA score, a sensitive screening tool for determining MCI in PD and PDD.

This is the first study to explore SAI in PD-MCI patients, and the largest study to investigate SAI in PD. Much of the previous work on SAI and cognitive impairment has involved those with Alzheimer's disease (AD), where cholinergic dysfunction is well established as a pathophysiological basis for dementia. Although an earlier study in non-parkinsonian patients with amnesic MCI did not demonstrate an impairment in SAI (Sakuma *et al.*, 2007), more recent findings in those with more advanced disease support the concept of cholinergic loss in MCI, with reduced SAI in those with cognitive deficits (Tsutsumi *et al.*, 2012a) or with amnesic multiple-domain MCI (Nardone *et al.*,

2012b). The cholinergic deficit in the mid-frontal cortex is more severe in Lewy body dementia (LBD) compared with AD (Tiraboschi *et al.*, 2000; Bohnen *et al.*, 2003), and it is therefore possible that SAI may be more sensitive in detecting MCI in PD than in early AD.

The pathophysiology of cognitive impairment in Lewy body diseases is not limited to cholinergic dysfunction, and is likely to involve both other neurotransmitters (serotonin, GABA, glutamate), plus  $\alpha$ -synuclein aggregation, Lewy body deposition, neurofibrillary tangles and amyloid plaque burden (Francis, 2009). These mechanisms are unlikely to operate discretely and may have synergistic effects on cognition. SAI provides a relatively simple, non-invasive and inexpensive neurophysiological method to evaluate cholinergic dysfunction, and we propose that it could serve as a biomarker with other measures to determine those at increased risk of dementia, thereby providing an opportunity for early clinical and pharmacological interventions. Other inhibitory neurotransmitters that may also influence cholinergic neurotransmission include GABA, as diazepam increases (or has no effect) (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2007a) whilst lorazepam decreases SAI (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2005c). Whilst these studies using different benzodiazepines indicate that GABA receptors are involved in the circuitry underlying SAI, as discussed earlier in this chapter it is difficult to be certain entirely what the effects of changes of endogenous and non-specific GABA would be. Therefore, GABA could potentially influence the results, and further work is required to establish the effects on SAI. GABA receptors are likely to contribute to other cortical circuits including short-interval intracortical inhibition (SICI) and long interval cortical inhibition (LICI), both of which interact with SAI (Alle *et al.*, 2009; Udupa *et al.*, 2009). It is possible that changes in SAI could be related to changes in these other circuits; however, whilst it is established that cholinergic loss occurs in the basal forebrain in PD (Tiraboschi *et al.*, 2000), loss of GABAergic neurones is not a feature of PD (Kish *et al.*, 1986; Halliday *et al.*, 2005; Emir *et al.*, 2012). We therefore suggest that the reduction in SAI seen here in PD-MCI may be related to loss of cholinergic neurones. Moreover, we could be certain that the effects of hemispheric dominance (Helmich *et al.*, 2005) had no impact, because our results remained robust after limiting the analysis to right-handed controls and patients in whom the right arm was both the dominant and most affected.

Age correlated with SAI in both control and PD participants, strengthening recent work suggesting that there is an age-related reduction in cholinergic modulation of inhibitory cortical circuits (Young-Bernier *et al.*, 2012a). This is the first study that has suggested a link between SAI and education, and raises the possibility that in addition to delaying or protecting against AD and vascular dementia in the general population (Hall *et al.*, 2007; Hall *et al.*, 2009; Meng and D'Arcy, 2012), greater cognitive reserve in PD may protect against future decline, as measured by SAI.

In PD participants but not controls, SAI was found to correlate with global cognition, verbal fluency and memory subscores. SAI was an independent determinant of MoCA and PAL in regression analyses. PAL is a visuospatial test of learning and memory that is sensitive to both temporal and frontal damage and has been shown to predict Alzheimer's disease with a high degree of accuracy (Swainson *et al.*, 2001; Blackwell *et al.*, 2004); it is therefore possible that poor scores on PAL plus reduced SAI could predict cholinergic deficit and future cognitive decline in PD. Additionally, PD participants who were impaired in semantic fluency tests showed significantly less inhibition than those who had normal scores. This supports previous work suggesting that poor performance on this posteriorly mediated cognitive test also predicts cognitive decline (Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2007a; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2009a). It was surprising that SAI did not predict tests of attention, which are thought to be cholinergically mediated, at least in part (Bohnen *et al.*, 2006b; Amici and Boxer, 2007; Yarnall *et al.*, 2011). Possible reasons for the lack of association between these variables include the short disease duration or the fact that SAI is more a measure of cholinergic loss from the nbM rather than the PPN, where degeneration in PD is well-recognised (Jellinger, 1988; Zweig *et al.*, 1989; Rinne *et al.*, 2008). Neuronal loss from the nbM would lead to loss of ascending cholinergic projections to the cortex and be reflected in abnormal SAI, whereas cholinergic neuronal loss in PPN would be postulated to lead to thalamic dysfunction primarily.

Strengths of this study are that a homogenous group of well-characterised participants with early Parkinson's disease were evaluated, with age- and sex-matched controls. The extent of SAI in the controls was largely similar to that of previously published studies, with a comparable reduction in inhibition in our subjects with PD-MCI and

previous AD or DLB participants (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2002; Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2004b; Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2005a; Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2007b).

One weakness of this study is that we do not have evidence of test-retest reliability. Older age has been associated with increased variability in SAI, with TMS procedures displaying a degree of variability with time (Young-Bernier *et al.*, 2012a). No 'normal' values for SAI exist in older adults; therefore we cannot be certain that the variations seen are within normal limits for this age group. Future work should include test-retest reliability in PD and control participants. It should be noted, however, that clear differences were seen between the groups studied, which supports the validity of the findings.

Other weaknesses include the fact that other inhibitory circuits (such as SICI and LICI) were not measured, and thus we cannot be absolutely sure of GABAergic contribution to cognitive impairment. Further differences in methodologies in this work compared with established publishers (Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2000; Chen *et al.*, 2008; Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2008; Nardone *et al.*, 2008a) include that only ISIs of 1 to 4ms were utilised and averaged (other studies used a grand mean of ISIs at 2 to 8 ms), and we used a circular TMS coil (other studies used a figure-of-eight coil). Whilst paired-pulse TMS paradigms were all initially described using figure-of-eight coils (outside diameter 90mm for each circle) placed over the motor 'hotspot' of the muscle being studied, it has become increasingly clear that equally reliable results can be obtained using a circular coil (130mm outside diameter) placed over the vertex (Trompetto *et al.*, 1999; Zoghi *et al.*, 2003; Badawy *et al.*, 2011). With a hand held circular coil there is very little movement-related MEP variability, and it can be accurately and reproducibly repositioned during a study, particularly during longitudinal studies, as the vertex is easily marked. However, as this was a multi-modal longitudinal study, the risk of patient fatigue is significant; therefore practical steps to ensure comfort are important. In addition, it should be noted that a large number of both PD and control subjects were unable to participate for both clinical and non-clinical reasons. Therefore, whether these study findings are applicable to a wider patient group could be questioned. In particular, as PD participants with a tremor score of greater than 2 on the MDS UPDRS III were excluded, these findings may not be valid for those with tremor-dominant disease.

Although the largest SAI study reported in this patient group to date, this sample size is still relatively modest, and the findings require validation in larger cohorts.

Participants were studied on dopaminergic medications in contrast to earlier studies (Sailer *et al.*, 2003; Di Lazzaro *et al.*, 2004a; Nardone *et al.*, 2005), and therefore whether SAI is abnormal in the off state cannot be determined. However, the levodopa equivalent doses used in this study were small (mean 331.5 mg/day).

Previous studies have demonstrated reduced SAI in PD patients on dopaminergic medications (Sailer *et al.*, 2003; Sailer *et al.*, 2007; Shukla *et al.*, 2013); possible reasons for the differences in this study include shorter disease duration, lower doses of dopaminergic medications and less heterogeneity amongst our patient group. We acknowledge that examining PD participants on and off treatment would strengthen the assumption that the effect on SAI seen in our subjects was not an artefact of dopaminergic medications on SAI, or that PD patients with MCI are more sensitive to dopaminergic medications, and would provide further useful information.

Furthermore, since this study was cross-sectional, the assertion that reduced SAI may act as a biomarker for cognitive decline in PD-MCI clearly requires confirmation in the context of a longitudinal trial. Due to the heterogeneity of the disease, it is unlikely that a single biomarker will predict dementia in PD, but SAI in combination with other biomarkers may prove useful.

In conclusion, short latency afferent inhibition is impaired in PD-MCI and correlated with global cognition, verbal fluency and memory assessments. SAI may represent a biomarker for early cholinergic dysfunction in these subjects in conjunction with other clinical measures to predict future cognitive decline.

## Chapter 5 Predicting cognitive impairment in Parkinson's disease: a multimodal approach

### 5.1 Combining cerebrospinal fluid and short latency afferent inhibition to predict cognition

As discussed in previous chapters, PD is a heterogeneous disorder, and it is unlikely that a single biomarker will have the required sensitivity or specificity to accurately predict cognitive decline in individual patients. Therefore, a multimodal approach using a combination of biomarkers may permit more precise prognostication. Earlier chapters have established that A $\beta$  protein levels (namely CSF A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42) and cholinergic dysfunction (measured using SAI) may identify high-risk individuals, and hence it would seem reasonable to combine these biomarkers to determine whether these could work synergistically. This theory has biological plausibility, with increasing evidence in animal models of an interaction between the cholinergic system and A $\beta$  in both disease states and normal ageing (Kar *et al.*, 2004; Schliebs and Arendt, 2006).

There is growing work suggesting that A $\beta$  has neuromodulatory effects in addition to its known neurotoxicity (Mura *et al.*, 2010a; Mura *et al.*, 2012). High concentrations of this protein have been shown to inhibit the cholinergic control of dopamine release (via both muscarinic and nicotinic receptors) plus GABA and glutamate in the rat nucleus accumbens, caudate putamen and hippocampus (Preda *et al.*, 2008; Grilli *et al.*, 2010; Mura *et al.*, 2010b; Mura *et al.*, 2012). However, lower A $\beta$  concentrations potentiated cholinergic release of glutamate (Mura *et al.*, 2012). Additionally, picomolar-nanomolar concentrations of A $\beta$  peptides are found with normal brain cells, with evidence that they decrease ACh concentrations via mechanisms including reduction of choline uptake at presynaptic hippocampal neurones, reducing choline acetyltransferase activity and reduced ACh release from synaptic vesicles (Kar *et al.*, 2004). Of note, these changes occur without apparent neurotoxicity. Although the above studies demonstrating a relationship between A $\beta$  and cholinergic function have been in animal models, the work is supported in post-mortem subjects with AD, where an association between cholinergic activity and A $\beta$  concentration has been demonstrated (Beach *et al.*, 2000).

A $\beta$  is derived from the proteolytic cleavage of A $\beta$  precursor protein (APP), with the subsequent peptide production dependent on the length of amino acid chain produced by sequential action of  $\beta$ - then  $\gamma$ -secretases. If instead APP is cleaved by  $\alpha$ -secretase, full length A $\beta$  peptide production is prevented, with soluble APP $\alpha$  formed in its place (Selkoe, 2003; Schliebs and Arendt, 2006). ACh influences the production of A $\beta$ , with both muscarinic agonists and AChE inhibitors increasing the production of soluble APP $\alpha$  and reducing total A $\beta$  concentration (Fisher *et al.*, 2003; Schliebs and Arendt, 2006). Conversely, scopolamine, a potent muscarinic antagonist, increased fibrillar A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 levels in transgenic mice (Liskowsky and Schliebs, 2006), whilst PD subjects treated with antimuscarinic medications for greater than two years demonstrated greater amyloid plaque densities than those who had not been exposed to these medications (Perry *et al.*, 2003).

In summary, there is evidence that A $\beta$  peptide production and deposition adversely affects ACh synthesis and release, and that ACh in turn may alter APP processing. Therefore, an analysis was performed on a subset of ICICLE participants who had undergone both CSF sampling and SAI, to determine whether any relationship existed between cholinergic dysfunction and amyloid pathology.

## **5.2 Specific methods**

Participants who had consented to both lumbar puncture at baseline visit and subsequent neurophysiology measurement (SAI) as part of the ICICLE study have already been described in Chapters 2-4. As only PD patients had CSF sampling, control data are not included here. Data of these participants were inspected visually and with scatter plots, and any correlation assessed using Pearson's *r* or Spearman's rho, depending on the distribution of the data. Scatter plots were constructed, with reference lines demarcating participants as above or below median values.

## **5.3 Results – general characteristics**

Of the 45 PD participants who had undergone SAI, 24 also had lumbar puncture at their baseline visit. 22 of these had SAI at their 18 month visit, with two having SAI at baseline. Characteristics of those who had SAI with or without CSF sampling are shown in Table 5-1. Those who had both SAI and CSF showed a trend towards younger age, lower dopaminergic medications, better MoCA score and superior memory score

(measured using paired associates learning, PAL) and had a shorter disease duration. However, there were no differences in neurophysiological measurements between the two groups.

Table 5-1 Characteristics of PD participants with SAI plus/minus CSF

	<b>SAI – CSF (n=21)</b>	<b>SAI + CSF (n=24)</b>	<b>P value</b>
<b>Age (years)<sup>a</sup></b>	72.1 (10.2)	66.9 (10.0)	<b>0.088</b>
<b>Male gender (n, %)<sup>b</sup></b>	12 (57.1)	16 (66.7)	0.511
<b>PD duration (months)</b>	22.8 (9.8)	20.2 (5.5)	<b>0.007*</b>
<b>UPDRS 3<sup>a</sup></b>	31.4 (9.6)	30.4 (12.0)	0.749
<b>LEDD (mg/d)<sup>a</sup></b>	373.7 (132.0)	294.6 (168.6)	<b>0.090</b>
<b>Education</b>	12.1 (3.3)	13.3 (3.6)	0.105
<b>GDS</b>	3.5 (4.1)	1.9 (2.3)	0.296
<b>MoCA</b>	24.7 (4.3)	26.9 (3.7)	<b>0.050</b>
<b>PoA (ms)</b>	1393 (172)	1329 (195)	0.150
<b>OTS</b>	14.8 (3.1)	15.5 (4.9)	0.195
<b>PAL</b>	2.3 (0.8)	1.9 (0.6)	<b>0.054</b>
<b>Pentagon</b>	1.8 (0.5)	1.8 (0.5)	0.862
<b>Language</b>	4.5 (0.8)	4.6 (0.8)	0.669
<b>SAI (%)<sup>a</sup></b>	77.5 (25.7)	77.4 (32.4)	0.984
<b>N20<sup>a</sup></b>	21.8 (2.9)	22.7 (25.8)	0.319
<b>MNMT (mA)<sup>a</sup></b>	10.9 (4.5)	11.8 (5.2)	0.526
<b>TMS MSO (%)<sup>a</sup></b>	38.0 (5.9)	40.4 (7.1)	0.216

Data are mean (SD) or number (%) for gender; <sup>a</sup>Unpaired t-test; <sup>b</sup>Pearson Chi-Square; the remainder used Mann-Whitney test; MNMT=median nerve motor threshold; TMS MSO=transcranial magnetic stimulation maximum stimulator output

#### 5.4 Combining CSF and SAI

Results from regression modelling (chapters 3 and 4) were visually examined initially to determine whether a relationship existed between CSF data, SAI and cognition (Table 5-2). Reduced inhibition (that is, a greater value for SAI) and lower CSF A $\beta$ 42 levels both predicted poorer scores on global cognition, as assessed using MoCA. Neither CSF parameters nor SAI predicted attention or visuospatial function. Greater A $\beta$ 42 values predicted improved temporal function, as measured using pattern recognition memory (PRM), and both A $\beta$ 42 and A $\beta$ 40 were significant predictors of language function, although A $\beta$ 40 was the stronger predictor. A $\beta$ 40 or P-tau values were significant contributors to executive function, depending on whether motor phenotype score was or was not included in the final model, respectively. Lastly, both reduced inhibition and greater P-tau levels were significant contributors to temporal/frontal lobe function, as measured using paired associates learning (PAL).

Table 5-2 Predictors of cognition using regression modelling

Domain	SAI	CSF		
		A $\beta$ 42	A $\beta$ 40	P-Tau
Global cognition	X	X	O	O
Attention	O	O	O	O
Executive	O	O	X*	X*
Memory				
Temporal	O	X	O	O
Temporal/frontal	X	O	O	X
Visuospatial	O	O	O	O
Language	O	X	X	O
Single vs. multiple	O	O	O	O
Amnesic vs. nonamnesic	O	O	O	O

\*Significant predictors varied according to whether motor phenotype was included in the final model; x=significant determinant of cognition in final regression model; o=non-significant determinant of cognition

Bivariate associations were then explored between SAI and CSF parameters. No significant correlation was seen between SAI and A $\beta$ 42 ( $r=-0.056$ ,  $p=0.794$ , Pearson's  $r$ ), SAI and A $\beta$ 40 ( $r=0.185$ ,  $p=0.387$ , Pearson's  $r$ ), SAI and P-tau ( $r=0.254$ ,  $p=0.232$ , Spearman's rho) or SAI and  $\alpha$ -synuclein ( $r=0.135$ ,  $p=0.529$ , Pearson's  $r$ ). There was a trend towards increased SAI and T-tau ( $r=0.349$ ,  $p=0.095$ , Pearson's  $r$ ). The lack of association may be due to the fact that this part of the analysis could have been underpowered to detect differences. Controlling for age in a partial correlation did not alter these significance levels. Scatter plots were then constructed, with the x- and y-reference lines dichotomised around the median values for the amount of inhibition and the CSF parameter for this sample to indicate the area of "high-risk" for both biomarkers.

Figure 5-1 demonstrates the first scatter plot for SAI versus A $\beta$ 42 levels, with the hatched area representing those participants with both reduced inhibition and reduced A $\beta$ 42. Of the four participants within this section, three scored less than 26 on the MoCA (therefore meeting level 1 MCI criteria) and also met level 2 MCI criteria at 1.5 SDs below normative values (shown in red and labelled as 'a', respectively) at their baseline ICICLE assessment. Interestingly, these same three participants also scored well below 2 SDs on semantic fluency, and named less than 12 animals in 90 seconds (11, 6 and 6 animals for the three subjects). One participant ('b') has subsequently been diagnosed with PDD prior to his 36 month assessment. The fourth participant ('c' and blue dot on plot) was cognitively normal, but also had A $\beta$ 40, T-tau and P-tau levels below median values. All four participants were aged over 60 (mean age 70), and the three who were cognitively impaired were also male. Motor phenotype was mixed, with one subject tremor-dominant, one indeterminate and two PIGD at baseline assessment. The three other participants in the whole group who scored less than 26 on the MoCA (shown as red dots) were near the median values for SAI and /or A $\beta$ 42; these same three subjects also met the criteria for level 2 MCI at 1.5 SDs below normal.

Figure 5-1 Scatter plot of SAI versus A $\beta$ 42 levels ; reference lines are across the median values for both parameters; hatched area represents those at highest risk according to previous results; red dots represent those with a baseline MoCA score < 26; a=participant with baseline level 2 MCI at 1.5 SDs below normative values; b=participant subsequently diagnosed PDD; c= A $\beta$ 42, A $\beta$ 40, T-tau and P-tau values all below median values

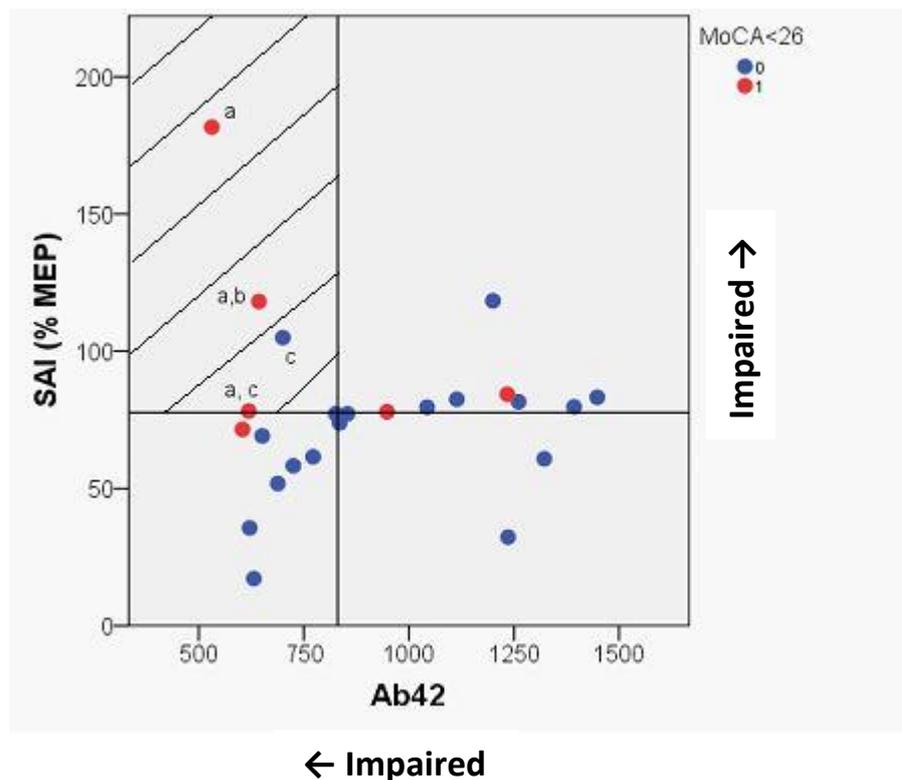


Figure 5-2 shows the scatter plot of SAI versus A $\beta$ 40 levels. Six participants were within the hatched “high-risk” area; two of these (‘c’) have already been discussed above as they also had A $\beta$ 42, T-tau and P-tau levels below the median. Four of the six participants met level 1 criteria for MCI at baseline visit (labelled as red); two of these also met level 2 MCI criteria (‘a’). One subject (‘b’; additional to that seen in Figure 5-1) has subsequently been diagnosed as PDD. Mean age was lower than the SAI/A $\beta$ 42 group (62 years), with only two of the six subjects scoring poorly in tests of semantic fluency. Two of the participants within the hatched area were female, and four were assessed as PIGD at baseline.



Figure 5-3 Scatter plot of SAI versus T-tau levels ; reference lines are across the median values for both parameters; hatched area represents those at highest risk according to previous results; red dots represent those with a baseline MoCA score < 26; c= A $\beta$ 42, A $\beta$ 40, T-tau and P-tau values all below median values; d= A $\beta$ 40, T-tau and P-tau values all below median values

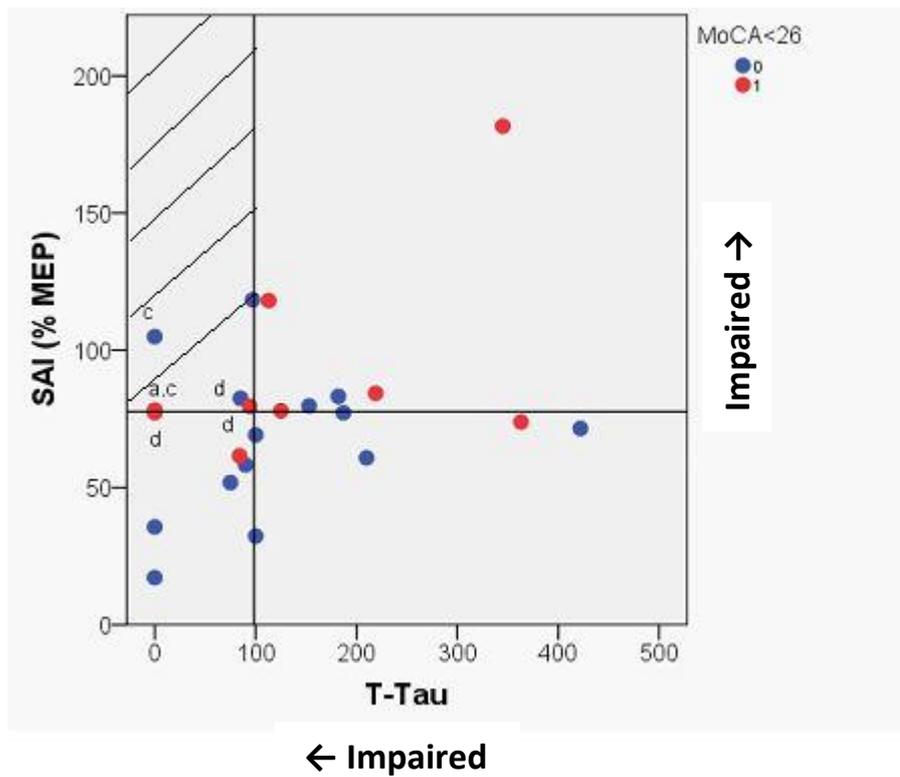
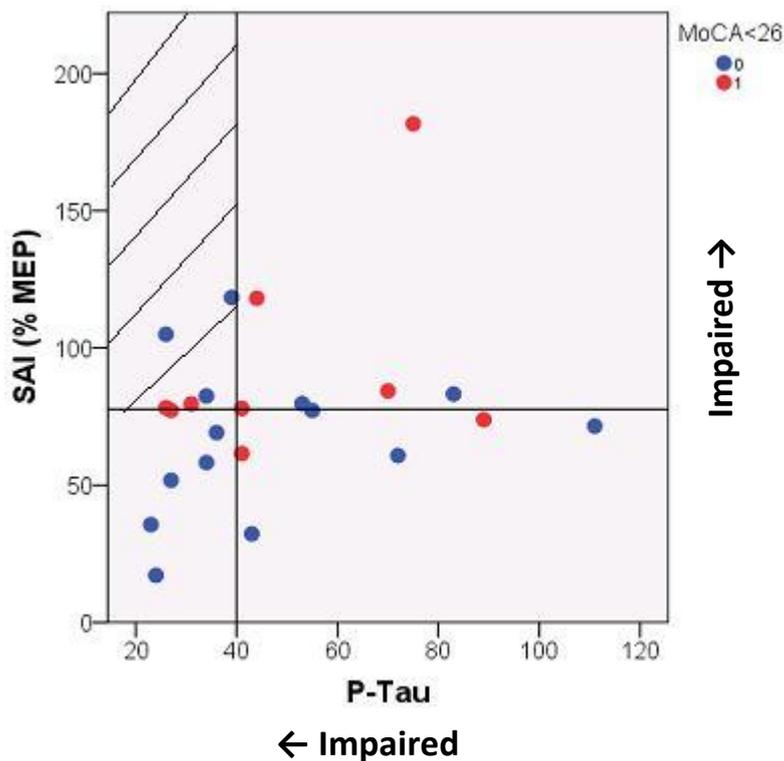


Figure 5-4 Scatter plot of SAI versus P-tau levels ; participants in hatched area as for T-Tau



### 5.5 Discussion – combining CSF and SAI biomarkers

These data provide some weak evidence that combining CSF parameters and SAI may be useful in determining PD patients at risk of future cognitive decline. In particular, both lower baseline CSF A $\beta$ 42 and reduced inhibition (greater SAI absolute value) predicted poorer global cognitive scores, and decreased baseline P-tau levels plus decreased SAI predicted poorer memory function (temporal/frontal impairment, as measured using PAL) (Table 5-2). It was clear that these were independent but not held concurrently in a model, although combining the two biomarkers together did identify more MCI than each alone. Therefore, it is conceivable that participants with a combination of these abnormalities may be at risk of dementia, allowing targeted treatment and earlier therapeutic manipulation in studies aiming to halt progression of cognitive decline. The potential interaction of amyloid deposition and the cholinergic system has been discussed in the introduction. There is also biological plausibility for a link between tau and acetylcholine, with an *in vitro* study demonstrating a decrease in tau phosphorylation following administration of muscarinic agonists (Sadot *et al.*, 1996). In AD models, A $\beta$  accumulation with associated cholinergic dysfunction and impaired G-protein coupling leads to neurodegeneration, tau phosphorylation and

neuronal loss (Thathiah and De Strooper, 2009). However, an increase in tau protein levels following stimulation of nicotinic acetylcholine receptors (Hellstrom-Lindahl *et al.*, 2000; Kar *et al.*, 2004) may offer an explanation for the findings here, with cholinergic loss precipitating a relative reduction in tau levels in those with, or at risk of, cognitive impairment.

No significant correlations were found between any CSF parameter and SAI. This is in contrast to a study in AD (n=19), where SAI was inversely correlated with A $\beta$ 42 levels and positively correlated with P-tau (Martorana *et al.*, 2012). Possible reasons for the differences seen here include differing pathologies and disease processes, in addition to the early disease status of our participants. However, when scatter plots were used to dichotomise participants into “high-risk” categories, more interesting patterns emerged. The most robust link seemed to be in those with A $\beta$ 42 levels less than median values and reduced SAI, where 75% of the participants also showed evidence of MCI using both level 1 and level 2 criteria. One of these has subsequently been diagnosed as PDD, and these same three participants all performed poorly on a test of semantic fluency. These findings support those from a comparable cohort of early PD participants in Cambridgeshire, where inability to name more than 20 animals in 90 seconds was a predictor of subsequent dementia diagnosis at three and five years (Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2007a; Williams-Gray *et al.*, 2009a). Our participants within this quadrant may therefore be at increased risk of future cognitive decline due to their more posteriorly-mediated cortical impairments due to cholinergic dysfunction and A $\beta$  deposition. Just two of the participants within the quadrant that contained reduced A $\beta$ 40 levels combined with reduced SAI had evidence of level 2 MCI, with four scoring less than 26 on the MoCA. One of these participants has since been diagnosed with PDD. Decreased T-tau and P-tau plus impaired SAI was a less discriminative grouping, with half the participants also having a concomitant diagnosis of level 1 MCI but only one also meeting criteria for level 2.

A potential weakness of this analysis is that these assessments were performed at different time points, with all CSF samples collected at the baseline visit, whilst the majority of neurophysiological assessments were performed at 18 months.

Comparison between the two time points may therefore be potentially misleading. However, no difference was found in cholinergic dysfunction as measured by cortical

AChE activity between PD participants with early (less than three years) or advanced disease (Shimada *et al.*, 2009); therefore it is possible that between baseline and 18 months there is no discernible acetylcholine loss and hence the extent of SAI may not change. To date, there have been no studies examining longitudinal measurement of SAI, and future studies should address this in PD. In addition, the small numbers of participants who underwent both CSF and SAI assessment may have resulted in a type 1 error. Lastly, lack of control data for this exploratory analysis could be perceived as a weakness. Obtaining CSF from neurologically normal controls is notoriously difficult from various perspectives, however, not least participant acceptability and ethical considerations.

In conclusion, there is evidence that a multimodal approach of combinations of biomarkers using CSF and SAI may increase the accuracy of prediction of future cognitive decline. In particular, reduced A $\beta$ 42 and impaired SAI, surrogate markers of A $\beta$  deposition and cholinergic loss, respectively, may be the most accurate combination to determine early PD participants at highest risk of dementia.

## Chapter 6 Conclusion and future directions

The prevalence of Parkinson's disease and thus the burden of associated non-motor symptoms will increase in future years due to secular trends in the age-structure of populations, both UK and worldwide. Rising age in the general population often equates to an increase in co-morbidities and associated polypharmacy. Therefore, the detection and if possible, prevention, of cognitive impairment associated with Parkinson's disease is of utmost importance for future generations in terms of healthcare costs, social care and prevention of morbidity and mortality. Cognition is also intricately linked with other non-motor aspects of the disorder, including mood disturbance, gait alterations and falls. A treatment that improved cognition may also have an impact on these other important aspects of PD. A biomarker that could identify those who will develop cognitive impairment early in the disease process would permit more effective use of putative disease-modifying therapies and potentially contribute towards the identification of novel, tractable drug targets. Possible biomarkers include laboratory measures of blood and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), neurophysiological procedures, imaging techniques such as magnetic resonance imaging and parameters of motor function comprising measures of gait and balance. The ICICLE-PD study is therefore timely, with its overarching aims being to determine the mechanisms underlying the evolution of PDD from early disease, to establish clinical risk factors associated with high dementia risk and to determine possible biomarkers predictive of future cognitive decline. The latter two objectives were the subject of this thesis, the principal aim of which was to define cognitive subtypes in early Parkinson's disease and to determine the interplay between putative markers of protein deposition and neurochemical dysfunction.

PD-MCI, which may represent a pre-dementia state, was common in a large cohort of early PD participants. 42.5% of PD participants met new MDS criteria for level 2 MCI at 1.5 SDs below normative values, compared to 21.1% of controls; these values are greater than previously reported for early PD. These PD participants were significantly older, with greater motor disease severity, lower educational levels and had higher depression scores compared to the PD-CN group. The most common single cognitive domain to be affected was memory, although a majority of participants were classified

as nonamnestic single-domain MCI according to subtype. This is in contrast to a non-PD older population, where amnestic MCI is the most common subtype. Of the tests used to assess cognition, the largest effect sizes were seen in those probing frontal-executive and attention domains, which may reflect differing underlying pathophysiological processes.

Analyses in the subgroup of PD participants who underwent CSF sampling allowed further investigation of the underlying mechanisms and pathophysiology of cognition in early PD. Reduced amyloid- $\beta$  levels were associated with inferior global cognitive score and pattern recognition memory, the latter of which is sensitive to temporal lobe dysfunction. Mean A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 levels were also significantly lower in our participants with PD-MCI compared to those with normal cognition. These results indicate that cognition in early PD may be mediated by amyloid deposition, possibly within the temporal lobe. Correlation between A $\beta$ 42 levels and pattern recognition memory was in keeping with one of the *a priori* hypotheses of this thesis: that reduced CSF amyloid- $\beta$  would be associated with more posteriorly-mediated cognitive dysfunction. The finding that A $\beta$ 40 was a significant contributor to language function in a regression model would also be in keeping with this hypothesis. Somewhat unexpectedly, and contradictory to outcomes from the AD literature, we found that lower CSF tau levels were seen in those with MCI compared to the PD-CN group. In accordance with this, P-tau was a significant predictor of paired associates learning, with poorer scores associated with reduced tau. It is possible that these reduced tau levels may be due to tau deposition, with subsequent aggregation of  $\alpha$ -synuclein and formation of cortical Lewy bodies, although this remains speculative at present and requires corroboration in post-mortem study.

Further understanding of the pathophysiology of mild cognitive impairment was illustrated by the SAI data, which indicated that cholinergic dysfunction is likely to be involved. In all participants, increased age was associated with a decrease in SAI, confirming that an age-related cholinergic loss occurs, regardless of disease state. Cognitive reserve also seemed to protect against cholinergic loss to some degree, with improved inhibition seen with greater number of years spent in education. PD participants demonstrated significantly reduced mean SAI compared to control participants, confirming imaging studies that have shown that cholinergic loss is

present even in early disease. In addition, cholinergic dysfunction is likely to be more severe in those with mild cognitive impairment, as SAI was abnormal in these participants, but not in those with PD and normal cognition. SAI correlated with scores on global cognition, verbal fluency and memory tests, indicating that there may also be a cholinergic basis to impairments within these domains.

The heterogeneity of PD means that it is unlikely a single biomarker will predict dementia risk, and hence SAI and CSF were examined together to determine if a multimodal approach could improve accuracy. One of our *a priori* hypotheses was that abnormal SAI at 18 months would be associated with reduced A $\beta$ 42 levels, and although there was no direct correlation between these two parameters, both were significant predictors of poorer scores of global cognition. In addition, participants who had both reduced A $\beta$ 42 and SAI values greater than the median were more cognitively impaired, with a majority meeting criteria for MCI. Therefore, combining these biomarkers may enhance accuracy of cognitive classification.

Future studies should involve the longitudinal assessment of participants, to determine whether PD-MCI is a pre-dementia state, and whether those with abnormalities on CSF and SAI parameters are associated with more rapid cognitive decline and/or dementia. It would also be useful to correlate cognition with falls and gait disturbance, as there is evidence these are associated both in PD and in the general population. A treatment that would encompass these important non-motor characteristics would be enormously beneficial in reducing the morbidity and mortality related to the disease, with a net gain of improvement in both patient and carer quality of life. One of the strengths of the ICICLE-PD study is that both controls and PD participants are to be assessed every 18 months; hence progression to defined end-points will increase in the coming years. This, coupled with planned future brain tissue donation, will allow us to establish a robust set of biomarkers for the evolution of PDD. Future work should also concentrate on assessing the validity of SAI as a biomarker. We have started to assess test-retest variability in controls, and we aim to increase the numbers and perform repeat SAI on PD participants.

In conclusion, mild cognitive impairment is common in patients with early PD. Abnormal SAI and significantly lower A $\beta$ 42 and A $\beta$ 40 levels were found in PD-MCI, and this correlated with memory function. We hypothesise that these subjects are at a

greater risk of cognitive decline and suggest that these participants should be targeted for future early therapeutic intervention and disease modification. Longitudinal assessment will help determine which clinical, laboratory and neurophysiological measures best predict those who will ultimately develop PDD.

## **Appendix A – Publications, awards and presentations arising from this thesis**

### **Awards**

Movement Disorder Society Junior Award for outstanding and innovative research for 'Characterising Mild Cognitive Impairment in Incident Parkinson's Disease: The ICICLE-PD Study.' Oral presentation at Plenary Session of the 17th International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders in Sydney, Australia, June 19 2013.

### **Publications**

- 1. Mild cognitive impairment in Parkinson's disease.** Yarnall AJ, Rochester L, Burn DJ. Accepted June 2013, *Age and Ageing*.
- 2. The Incidence of Parkinson's Disease in the North East of England.** Duncan GW, Khoo TK, Yarnall AJ, O'Brien JT, Brayne CE, Coleman SY, Brooks DJ, Barker RA, Burn DJ. Accepted June 2013, *Age and Ageing*.
- 3.Characterising Mild Cognitive Impairment in Incident Parkinson's Disease: The ICICLE-PD Study.** Yarnall AJ, Duncan GW, Breen D, Khoo TK, Brooks DJ, Coleman S, O'Brien JB, Barker RA, Burn DJ. Under review, *Neurology*.
- 4.Frequency of primary sleep disorder in patients with newly diagnosed Parkinson's Disease.** Prudon B, Duncan GW, Khoo TK, Yarnall AJ, Burn DJ and Anderson KN. Under review, *Movement Disorders*.
- 5.Health-related quality of life in early Parkinson's disease: the impact of non-motor symptoms.** Duncan GW, Khoo TK, Yarnall AJ, O'Brien JT, Coleman SY, Brooks DJ, Barker RA, Burn DJ. Under review, *Movement Disorders*.
- 5.Falls in Patients with Dementia** (book chapter). Rochester L, Lord S, Yarnall AJ, Burn DJ in *Movement disorders in dementia*. Submitted June 2013.
- 6.Dementia in Parkinson's Disease** (book chapter). Burn DJ and Yarnall AJ, in *Non-Motor Symptoms of Parkinson's disease*, Second Edition, Oxford University Press, 2013.
- 7.Bone Health and Neurological Disease.** Dobson R, Yarnall AJ, Noyce A, Giovannoni G. *Practical Neurology* 2013; 13: 70–79.

- 8.Short latency afferent inhibition: a biomarker for mild cognitive impairment in Parkinson's disease?** [Yarnall AJ](#), Rochester L, Baker M, David R, Khoo TK, Duncan GW, Galna B, Burn DJ. *Movement Disorders* 2013: DOI: 10.1002/mds.25360.
- 9.Rapid Eye Movement Sleep Behaviour Disorder in Parkinson's Disease: Magnetic Resonance Imaging Study.** Ford AH, Duncan GW, Firbank MJ, [Yarnall AJ](#), Khoo TK, Burn DJ, and O'Brien JT. *Movement Disorders* 2013: DOI: 10.1002/mds.25367.
- 10.The Spectrum of Non-Motor Symptoms in Early Parkinson's Disease.** Khoo TK, [Yarnall AJ](#), Duncan GW, Coleman S, O'Brien JT, Brooks DJ, Barker RA, Burn DJ. *Neurology* 2013: 80; 1–6.
- 11.New Horizons in the pathogenesis, assessment and management of movement disorders.** Duncan GW, [Yarnall AJ](#), Marrinan S, Burn DJ. *Age and Ageing* 2013; 42: 2–10.
- 12.Hot Topic: Further Evidence That Amyloid- $\beta$  Oligomer and Cellular Prion Protein Interaction Produces Deleterious Consequences in Alzheimer's Disease.** [Yarnall AJ](#). *Movement Disorders* 2012; 27: 1612
- 13.Cholinergic dysfunction contributes selectively to gait disturbance in early PD: an in vivo evaluation with short latency afferent inhibition.** Rochester L, [Yarnall AJ](#), David R, Baker MR, Lord S, Galna B, Burn DJ. *Brain* 2012: 135; 2779–2788.
- 14.Parkinson's disease.** [Yarnall AJ](#), Archibald N, Burn DJ. *Medicine* 2012 40(10).
- 15.Amantadine-induced myoclonus in a patient with progressive supranuclear palsy.** [Yarnall AJ](#), Burn DJ. *Age and Ageing* 2012: 41(5); 695-696.
- 16.Falling short: Underestimation of fracture risk in atypical parkinsonian syndromes.** [Yarnall AJ](#), Duncan GW, Khoo TK, Burn DJ. *Parkinsonism and Related Disorders* 2012;18;692-693
- 17.The interplay of cholinergic function, cognition and falls in Parkinson's disease.** [Yarnall AJ](#), Rochester L, Burn DJ. *Movement Disorders* 2011;26; 2496-2503.
- 18. Hot Topic: Low CSF  $\alpha$ -Synuclein Levels May Facilitate the Prediction of Synucleinopathies.** [Yarnall AJ](#). *Movement Disorders* 2011: 26 (7); 1194

## **International presentations**

### **1. Characterising Mild Cognitive Impairment in Incident Parkinson's Disease: The ICICLE-PD Study**

Yarnall AJ, Breen DP, Duncan GW, Khoo TK, Coleman SY, Evans JR, Rowe J, O'Brien JT, Wesnes K, Robbins TW, Brooks DJ, Barker RA, Burn DJ.

Oral Plenary Session and poster presentation at the *17<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders, Sydney June 2013.*

### **2. Apomorphine: a potential modifier of amyloid deposition in Parkinson's disease?**

Yarnall AJ, Lashley T, Ling H, O'Sullivan SS, Lees A, Revesz T, Burn DJ.

Poster presentation at the *17<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders, Sydney June 2013.*

### **3. Short latency afferent inhibition: a biomarker for mild cognitive impairment in Parkinson's disease?**

Yarnall AJ, Rochester L, David R, Khoo TK, Duncan GW, Galna B, Baker MR, Burn DJ.

Poster presentation at the *American Neurological Association meeting, Boston October 2012*

### **4. Cholinergic dysfunction in Parkinson's disease with mild cognitive impairment: a short latency afferent inhibition study.**

Yarnall AJ, Rochester L, David R, Duncan GW, Khoo TK, Baker MR, Burn DJ.

Poster presentation at the *16<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders, Dublin June 2012*

### **5. Anticholinergic load: is there a cognitive cost in early Parkinson's disease?**

Yarnall AJ, Khoo TK, Duncan GW, Rochester L, Barker RA, Burn DJ.

Poster presentation at the *16<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders, Dublin June 2012*

### **6. Atypical parkinsonian syndromes and fracture risk- are patients adequately managed?**

Yarnall AJ, Duncan GW, Khoo TK, Burn DJ.

Poster presentation at the *16<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders, Dublin June 2012*

*Selected also as an oral presentation for the Guided Poster Tours*

### **7. Mild cognitive impairment in PD: does cholinergic dysfunction contribute?**

Yarnall AJ, Rochester L, David R, Baker M, Lord S, Burn DJ

Poster presentation at the 8<sup>th</sup> *International Congress on mental Dysfunction and Other Non-Motor Symptoms in Parkinson's disease and Related Disorders, Berlin, May 2012*

## Appendix B - Questionnaire and Scales used in this thesis

### MDS-UPDRS

The Movement Disorder Society (MDS)-sponsored new version of the UDPRS is founded on the critique that was formulated by the Task Force for Rating Scales in Parkinson's disease (*Mov Disord* 2003;18:738-750). Thereafter, the MDS recruited a Chairperson to organize a program to provide the Movement Disorder community with a new version of the UDPRS that would maintain the overall format of the original UPDRS, but address issues identified in the critique as weaknesses and ambiguities. The Chairperson identified subcommittees with chairs and members. Each part was written by the appropriate subcommittee members and then reviewed and ratified by the entire group. These members are listed below.

The MDS UPDRS has four parts: Part I (non-motor experiences of daily living), Part II (motor experiences of daily living, Part III (motor examination) and Part IV (motor complications). Part I has two components: IA concerning a number of behaviors that are assessed by the investigator with all pertinent information from patients and caregivers and IB that is completed by the patient with or without the aid of the caregiver, but independently of the investigator. It can, however, be reviewed by the rater to ensure that all questions are answered clearly and the rater can help explain any perceived ambiguities. Part II is designed to be a self-administered questionnaire like Part IB, but can be reviewed by the investigator to ensure completeness and clarity. Of note, the official versions of Part1A, Part1B and Part2 of the MDS-UPDRS do not have separate on or off ratings. However, for individual programs or protocols the same questions can be used separately for on and off. Part III has instructions for the rater to give or demonstrate to the patient; it is completed by the rater. Part IV has instructions for the rater and also instructions to be read to the patient. This part integrates patient-derived information with the rater's clinical observations and judgments and is completed by the rater.

The authors of this new version are:

Chairperson: Christopher G. Goetz

Part I: Werner Poewe (chair), Bruno Dubois, Anette Schrag

Part II: Matthew B. Stern (chair), Anthony E. Lang, Peter A. LeWitt

Part III: Stanley Fahn (chair), Joseph Jankovic, C. Warren Olanow

Part IV: Pablo Martinez-Martin (chair), Andrew Lees, Olivier Rascol, Bob van Hilten

Development Standards: Glenn T. Stebbins (chair), Robert Holloway, David Nyenhuis

Appendices: Cristina Sampaio (chair), Richard Dodel, Jaime Kulisevsky

Statistical Testing: Barbara Tilley (chair), Sue Leurgans, Jean Teresi,

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July 1, 2008

### Part II: Motor Aspects of Experiences of Daily Living (M-EDL)

#### 2.1 SPEECH

Over the past week, have you had problems with your speech?

- 0: Normal: Not at all (no problems).
- 1: Slight: My speech is soft, slurred or uneven, but it does not cause others to ask me to repeat myself.
- 2: Mild: My speech causes people to ask me to occasionally repeat myself, but not everyday.
- 3: Moderate: My speech is unclear enough that others ask me to repeat myself every day even though most of my speech is understood.
- 4: Severe: Most or all of my speech cannot be understood.



	SCORE
<p><b>2.2 SALIVA &amp; DROOLING</b></p> <p>Over the past week, have you usually had too much saliva during when you are awake or when you sleep?</p> <p>0: Normal: Not at all (no problems).</p> <p>1: Slight: I have too much saliva, but do not drool.</p> <p>2: Mild: I have some drooling during sleep, but none when I am awake.</p> <p>3: Moderate: I have some drooling when I am awake, but I usually do not need tissues or a handkerchief.</p> <p>4: Severe: I have so much drooling that I regularly need to use tissues or a handkerchief to protect my clothes.</p>	<input data-bbox="1326 584 1391 651" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>2.3 CHEWING AND SWALLOWING</b></p> <p>Over the past week, have you usually had problems swallowing pills or eating meals? Do you need your pills cut or crushed or your meals to be made soft, chopped or blended to avoid choking?</p> <p>0: Normal: No problems.</p> <p>1: Slight: I am aware of slowness in my chewing or increased effort at swallowing, but I do not choke or need to have my food specially prepared.</p> <p>2: Mild: I need to have my pills cut or my food specially prepared because of chewing or swallowing problems, but I have not choked over the past week.</p> <p>3: Moderate. I choked at least once in the past week.</p> <p>4: Severe: Because of chewing and swallowing problems, I need a feeding tube.</p>	<input data-bbox="1326 1301 1391 1368" type="checkbox"/>

<b>2.4 EATING TASKS</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
<p>Over the past week, have you usually had troubles handling your food and using eating utensils? For example, do you have trouble handling finger foods or using forks, knives, spoons, chopsticks?</p> <p>0: Normal: Not at all (No problems).</p> <p>1: Slight: I am slow, but I do not need any help handling my food and have not had food spills while eating.</p> <p>2: Mild: I am slow with my eating and have occasional food spills. I may need help with a few tasks such as cutting meat.</p> <p>3: Moderate: I need help with many eating tasks but can manage some alone.</p> <p>4: Severe: I need help for most or all eating tasks.</p>	<input data-bbox="1316 510 1380 577" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>2.5 DRESSING</b></p> <p>Over the past week, have you usually had problems dressing? For example, are you slow or do you need help with buttoning, using zippers, putting on or taking off your clothes or jewelry?</p> <p>0: Normal: Not at all (no problems).</p> <p>1: Slight: I am slow but I do not need help.</p> <p>2: Mild: I am slow and need help for a few dressing tasks (buttons, bracelets).</p> <p>3: Moderate: I need help for many dressing tasks.</p> <p>4: Severe: I need help for most or all dressing tasks.</p>	<input data-bbox="1316 1243 1380 1310" type="checkbox"/>

2.6 HYGIENE	SCORE
<p>Over the past week, have you usually been slow or do you need help with washing, bathing, shaving, brushing teeth, combing your hair or with other personal hygiene?</p> <p>0: Normal: Not at all (no problems).</p> <p>1: Slight: I am slow but I do not need any help.</p> <p>2: Mild: I need someone else to help me with some hygiene tasks.</p> <p>3: Moderate: I need help for many hygiene tasks.</p> <p>4: Severe: I need help for most or all of my hygiene tasks.</p>	<input data-bbox="1310 376 1377 443" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>2.7 HANDWRITING</b></p> <p>Over the past week, have people usually had trouble reading your handwriting?</p> <p>0: Normal: Not at all (no problems).</p> <p>1: Slight: My writing is slow, clumsy or uneven, but all words are clear.</p> <p>2: Mild: Some words are unclear and difficult to read.</p> <p>3: Moderate: Many words are unclear and difficult to read.</p> <p>4: Severe: Most or all words cannot be read.</p>	<input data-bbox="1310 875 1377 943" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>2.8 DOING HOBBIES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p>Over the past week, have you usually had trouble doing your hobbies or other things that you like to do?</p> <p>0: Normal: Not at all (no problems).</p> <p>1: Slight: I am a bit slow but do these activities easily.</p> <p>2: Mild: I have some difficulty doing these activities.</p> <p>3: Moderate: I have major problems doing these activities, but still do most.</p> <p>4: Severe: I am unable to do most or all of these activities.</p>	<input data-bbox="1310 1361 1377 1429" type="checkbox"/>

<b>2.9 TURNING IN BED</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
<p>Over the past week, do you usually have trouble turning over in bed?</p> <p>0: Normal: Not at all (no problems).</p> <p>1: Slight: I have a bit of trouble turning, but I do not need any help.</p> <p>2: Mild: I have a lot of trouble turning and need occasional help from someone else.</p> <p>3: Moderate: To turn over I often need help from someone else.</p> <p>4: Severe: I am unable to turn over without help from someone else.</p>	<input data-bbox="1310 376 1377 443" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>2.10 TREMOR</b></p> <p>Over the past week, have you usually had shaking or tremor?</p> <p>0: Normal: Not at all. I have no shaking or tremor.</p> <p>1: Slight: Shaking or tremor occurs but does not cause problems with any activities.</p> <p>2: Mild: Shaking or tremor causes problems with only a few activities.</p> <p>3: Moderate: Shaking or tremor causes problems with many of my daily activities.</p> <p>4: Severe: Shaking or tremor causes problems with most or all activities.</p>	<input data-bbox="1310 864 1377 931" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>2.11 GETTING OUT OF BED, A CAR, OR A DEEP CHAIR</b></p> <p>Over the past week, have you usually had trouble getting out of bed, a car seat, or a deep chair?</p> <p>0: Normal: Not at all (no problems).</p> <p>1: Slight: I am slow or awkward, but I usually can do it on my first try.</p> <p>2: Mild: I need more than one try to get up or need occasional help.</p> <p>3: Moderate: I sometimes need help to get up, but most times I can still do it on my own.</p> <p>4: Severe: I need help most or all of the time.</p>	<input data-bbox="1310 1357 1377 1424" type="checkbox"/>

2.12 WALKING AND BALANCE	SCORE
<p>Over the past week, have you usually had problems with balance and walking?</p> <p>0: Normal: Not at all (no problems).</p> <p>1: Slight: I am slightly slow or may drag a leg. I never use a walking aid.</p> <p>2: Mild: I occasionally use a walking aid, but I do not need any help from another person.</p> <p>3: Moderate: I usually use a walking aid (cane, walker) to walk safely without falling. However, I do not usually need the support of another person.</p> <p>4: Severe: I usually use the support of another persons to walk safely without falling.</p>	<input data-bbox="1315 416 1378 483" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>2.13 FREEZING</b></p> <p>Over the past week, on your usual day when walking, do you suddenly stop or freeze as if your feet are stuck to the floor.</p> <p>0: Normal: Not at all (no problems).</p> <p>1: Slight: I briefly freeze but I can easily start walking again. I do not need help from someone else or a walking aid (cane or walker) because of freezing.</p> <p>2: Mild: I freeze and have trouble starting to walk again, but I do not need someone's help or a walking aid (cane or walker) because of freezing.</p> <p>3: Moderate: When I freeze I have a lot of trouble starting to walk again and, because of freezing, I sometimes need to use a walking aid or need someone else's help.</p> <p>4: Severe: Because of freezing, most or all of the time, I need to use a walking aid or someone's help.</p>	<input data-bbox="1315 1032 1378 1099" type="checkbox"/>
<p>This completes the questionnaire. We may have asked about problems you do not even have, and may have mentioned problems that you may never develop at all. Not all patients develop all these problems, but because they can occur, it is important to ask all the questions to every patient. Thank you for your time and attention in completing this questionnaire.</p>	

### Part III: Motor Examination

Overview: This portion of the scale assesses the motor signs of PD. In administering Part III of the MDS-UPDRS the examiner should comply with the following guidelines:

At the top of the form, mark whether the patient is on medication for treating the symptoms of Parkinson's disease and, if on levodopa, the time since the last dose.

Also, if the patient is receiving medication for treating the symptoms of Parkinson's Disease, mark the patient's clinical state using the following definitions:

**ON** is the typical functional state when patients are receiving medication and have a good response.

**OFF** is the typical functional state when patients have a poor response in spite of taking medications.

The investigator should "rate what you see". Admittedly, concurrent medical problems such as stroke, paralysis, arthritis, contracture, and orthopedic problems such as hip or knee replacement and scoliosis may interfere with individual items in the motor examination. In situations where it is absolutely impossible to test (e.g., amputations, plegia, limb in a cast), use the notation "UR" for Unable to Rate. Otherwise, rate the performance of each task as the patient performs in the context of co-morbidities.

All items must have an integer rating (no half points, no missing ratings).

Specific instructions are provided for the testing of each item. These should be followed in all instances. The investigator demonstrates while describing tasks the patient is to perform and rates function immediately thereafter. For Global Spontaneous Movement and Rest Tremor items (3.14 and 3.17), these items have been placed purposefully at the end of the scale because clinical information pertinent to the score will be obtained throughout the entire examination.

At the end of the rating, indicate if dyskinesia (chorea or dystonia) was present at the time of the examination, and if so, whether these movements interfered with the motor examination.

**3a** Is the patient on medication for treating the symptoms of Parkinson's Disease?  No  Yes

**3b** If the patient is receiving medication for treating the symptoms of Parkinson's Disease, mark the patient's clinical state using the following definitions:

ON: On is the typical functional state when patients are receiving medication and have a good response.

OFF: Off is the typical functional state when patients have a poor response in spite of taking medications.

**3c** Is the patient on Levodopa?  No  Yes

**3.C1** If yes, minutes since last levodopa dose: \_\_\_\_\_

3.1 SPEECH	SCORE
<p><u>Instructions to examiner:</u> Listen to the patient's free-flowing speech and engage in conversation if necessary. Suggested topics: ask about the patient's work, hobbies, exercise, or how he got to the doctor's office. Evaluate volume, modulation (prosody) and clarity, including slurring, palilalia (repetition of syllables) and tachyphemia (rapid speech, running syllables together).</p> <p>0: Normal: No speech problems.</p> <p>1: Slight: Loss of modulation, diction or volume, but still all words easy to understand.</p> <p>2: Mild: Loss of modulation, diction, or volume, with a few words unclear, but the overall sentences easy to follow.</p> <p>3: Moderate: Speech is difficult to understand to the point that some, but not most, sentences are poorly understood.</p> <p>4: Severe: Most speech is difficult to understand or unintelligible.</p>	<input data-bbox="1313 510 1377 577" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>3.2 FACIAL EXPRESSION</b></p> <p><u>Instructions to examiner:</u> Observe the patient sitting at rest for 10 seconds, without talking and also while talking. Observe eye-blink frequency, masked facies or loss of facial expression, spontaneous smiling and parting of lips.</p> <p>0: Normal: Normal facial expression.</p> <p>1: Slight: Minimal masked facies manifested only by decreased frequency of blinking.</p> <p>2: Mild: In addition to decreased eye-blink frequency, Masked facies present in the lower face as well, namely fewer movements around the mouth, such as less spontaneous smiling, but lips not parted.</p> <p>3: Moderate: Masked facies with lips parted some of the time when the mouth is at rest.</p> <p>4: Severe: Masked facies with lips parted most of the time when the mouth is at rest.</p>	<input data-bbox="1313 1261 1377 1328" type="checkbox"/>

3.3 RIGIDITY	SCORE
<p><u>Instructions to examiner:</u> Rigidity is judged on slow passive movement of major joints with the patient in a relaxed position and the examiner manipulating the limbs and neck. First, test without an activation maneuver. Test and rate neck and each limb separately. For arms, test the wrist and elbow joints simultaneously. For legs, test the hip and knee joints simultaneously. If no rigidity is detected, use an activation maneuver such as tapping fingers, fist opening/closing, or heel tapping in a limb not being tested. Explain to the patient to go as limp as possible as you test for rigidity.</p> <p>0: Normal: No rigidity.</p> <p>1: Slight: Rigidity only detected with activation maneuver.</p> <p>2: Mild: Rigidity detected without the activation maneuver, but full range of motion is easily achieved.</p> <p>3: Moderate: Rigidity detected without the activation maneuver; full range of motion is achieved with effort.</p> <p>4: Severe: Rigidity detected without the activation maneuver and full range of motion not achieved.</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1313 248 1377 315" type="checkbox"/>            Neck         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1313 421 1377 488" type="checkbox"/>            RUE         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1313 593 1377 660" type="checkbox"/>            LUE         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1313 766 1377 833" type="checkbox"/>            RLE         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1313 938 1377 1005" type="checkbox"/>            LLE         </div>
<p><b>3.4 FINGER TAPPING</b></p> <p><u>Instructions to examiner:</u> Each hand is tested separately. Demonstrate the task, but do not continue to perform the task while the patient is being tested. Instruct the patient to tap the index finger on the thumb 10 times as quickly AND as big as possible. Rate each side separately, evaluating speed, amplitude, hesitations, halts and decrementing amplitude.</p> <p>0: Normal: No problems.</p> <p>1: Slight: Any of the following: a) the regular rhythm is broken with one or two interruptions or hesitations of the tapping movement; b) slight slowing; c) the amplitude decrements near the end of the 10 taps.</p> <p>2: Mild: Any of the following: a) 3 to 5 interruptions during tapping; b) mild slowing; c) the amplitude decrements midway in the 10-tap sequence.</p> <p>3: Moderate: Any of the following: a) more than 5 interruptions during tapping or at least one longer arrest (freeze) in ongoing movement; b) moderate slowing; c) the amplitude decrements starting after the 1st tap.</p> <p>4: Severe: Cannot or can only barely perform the task because of slowing, interruptions or decrements.</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1313 1238 1377 1305" type="checkbox"/>            R         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1313 1411 1377 1478" type="checkbox"/>            L         </div>

3.5 HAND MOVEMENTS	SCORE
<p><u>Instructions to examiner:</u> Test each hand separately. Demonstrate the task, but do not continue to perform the task while the patient is being tested. Instruct the patient to make a tight fist with the arm bent at the elbow so that the palm faces the examiner. Have the patient open the hand 10 times as fully AND as quickly as possible. If the patient fails to make a tight fist or to open the hand fully, remind him/her to do so. Rate each side separately, evaluating speed, amplitude, hesitations, halts and decrementing amplitude.</p> <p>0: Normal: No problem.</p> <p>1: Slight: Any of the following: a) the regular rhythm is broken with one or two interruptions or hesitations of the movement; b) slight slowing; c) the amplitude decrements near the end of the task.</p> <p>2: Mild: Any of the following: a) 3 to 5 interruptions during the movements; b) mild slowing; c) the amplitude decrements midway in the task.</p> <p>3: Moderate: Any of the following: a) more than 5 interruptions during the movement or at least one longer arrest (freeze) in ongoing movement; b) moderate slowing; c) the amplitude decrements starting after the 1st open-and-close sequence.</p> <p>4: Severe: Cannot or can only barely perform the task because of slowing, interruptions or decrements.</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1316 421 1380 488" type="checkbox"/>  R </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1316 589 1380 656" type="checkbox"/>  L </div>
<p><b>3.6 PRONATION-SUPINATION MOVEMENTS OF HANDS</b></p> <p><u>Instructions to examiner:</u> Test each hand separately. Demonstrate the task, but do not continue to perform the task while the patient is being tested. Instruct the patient to extend the arm out in front of his/her body with the palms down; then to turn the palm up and down alternately 10 times as fast and as fully as possible. Rate each side separately, evaluating speed, amplitude, hesitations, halts and decrementing amplitude.</p> <p>0: Normal: No problems.</p> <p>1: Slight: Any of the following: a) the regular rhythm is broken with one or two interruptions or hesitations of the movement; b) slight slowing; c) the amplitude decrements near the end of the sequence.</p> <p>2: Mild: Any of the following: a) 3 to 5 interruptions during the movements; b) mild slowing; c) the amplitude decrements midway in the sequence.</p> <p>3: Moderate: Any of the following: a) more than 5 interruptions during the movement or at least one longer arrest (freeze) in ongoing movement; b) moderate slowing c) the amplitude decrements starting after the 1st supination-pronation sequence.</p> <p>4: Severe: Cannot or can only barely perform the task because of slowing, interruptions or decrements.</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1316 1126 1380 1193" type="checkbox"/>  R </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1316 1294 1380 1361" type="checkbox"/>  L </div>

3.7 TOE TAPPING	SCORE
<p><u>Instructions to examiner:</u> Have the patient sit in a straight-backed chair with arms, both feet on the floor. Test each foot separately. Demonstrate the task, but do not continue to perform the task while the patient is being tested. Instruct the patient to place the heel on the ground in a comfortable position and then tap the toes 10 times as big and as fast as possible. Rate each side separately, evaluating speed, amplitude, hesitations, halts and decrementing amplitude.</p> <p>0: Normal: No problem.</p> <p>1: Slight: Any of the following: a) the regular rhythm is broken with one or two interruptions or hesitations of the tapping movement; b) slight slowing; c) amplitude decrements near the end of the ten taps.</p> <p>2: Mild: Any of the following: a) 3 to 5 interruptions during the tapping movements; b) mild slowing; c) amplitude decrements midway in the task.</p> <p>3: Moderate: Any of the following: a) more than 5 interruptions during the tapping movements or at least one longer arrest (freeze) in ongoing movement; b) moderate slowing; c) amplitude decrements after the first tap.</p> <p>4: Severe: Cannot or can only barely perform the task because of slowing, interruptions or decrements.</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1316 421 1380 488" type="checkbox"/>  R </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1316 589 1380 656" type="checkbox"/>  L </div>
<p><b>3.8 LEG AGILITY</b></p> <p><u>Instructions to examiner:</u> Have the patient sit in a straight-backed chair with arms. The patient should have both feet comfortably on the floor. Test each leg separately. Demonstrate the task, but do not continue to perform the task while the patient is being tested. Instruct the patient to place the foot on the ground in a comfortable position and then raise and stomp the foot on the ground 10 times as high and as fast as possible. Rate each side separately, evaluating speed, amplitude, hesitations, halts and decrementing amplitude.</p> <p>0: Normal: No problems.</p> <p>1: Slight: Any of the following: a) the regular rhythm is broken with one or two interruptions or hesitations of the movement; b) slight slowing; c) amplitude decrements near the end of the task.</p> <p>2: Mild: Any of the following: a) 3 to 5 interruptions during the movements; b) mild slowness; c) amplitude decrements midway in the task.</p> <p>3: Moderate: Any of the following: a) more than 5 interruptions during the movement or at least one longer arrest (freeze) in ongoing movement; b) moderate slowing in speed; c) amplitude decrements after the first tap.</p> <p>4: Severe: Cannot or can only barely perform the task because of slowing, interruptions or decrements.</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1316 1137 1380 1205" type="checkbox"/>  R </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1316 1305 1380 1373" type="checkbox"/>  L </div>

3.9 ARISING FROM CHAIR	SCORE
<p>Instructions to examiner: Have the patient sit in a straight-backed chair with arms, with both feet on the floor and sitting back in the chair (if the patient is not too short). Ask the patient to cross his/her arms across the chest and then to stand up. If the patient is not successful, repeat this attempt a maximum up to two more times. If still unsuccessful, allow the patient to move forward in the chair to arise with arms folded across the chest. Allow only one attempt in this situation. If unsuccessful, allow the patient to push off using his/her hands on the arms of the chair. Allow a maximum of three trials of pushing off. If still not successful, assist the patient to arise. After the patient stands up, observe the posture for item 3.13</p> <p>0: Normal: No problems. Able to arise quickly without hesitation.</p> <p>1: Slight: Arising is slower than normal; or may need more than one attempt; or may need to move forward in the chair to arise. No need to use the arms of the chair.</p> <p>2: Mild: Pushes self up from arms of chair without difficulty.</p> <p>3: Moderate: Needs to push off, but tends to fall back; or may have to try more than one time using arms of chair, but can get up without help.</p> <p>4: Severe: Unable to arise without help.</p>	<input data-bbox="1318 501 1385 568" type="text"/>
<p><b>3.10 GAIT</b></p> <p>Instructions to examiner: Testing gait is best performed by having the patient walking away from and towards the examiner so that both right and left sides of the body can be easily observed simultaneously. The patient should walk at least 10 meters (30 feet), then turn around and return to the examiner. This item measures multiple behaviors: stride amplitude, stride speed, height of foot lift, heel strike during walking, turning, and arm swing, but not freezing. Assess also for "freezing of gait" (next item 3.11) while patient is walking. Observe posture for item 3.13</p> <p>0: Normal: No problems.</p> <p>1: Slight: Independent walking with minor gait impairment.</p> <p>2: Mild: Independent walking but with substantial gait impairment.</p> <p>3: Moderate: Requires an assistance device for safe walking (walking stick, walker) but not a person.</p> <p>4: Severe: Cannot walk at all or only with another person's assistance.</p>	<input data-bbox="1318 1279 1385 1346" type="text"/>

3.11 FREEZING OF GAIT	SCORE
<p><u>Instructions to examiner:</u> While assessing gait, also assess for the presence of any gait freezing episodes. Observe for start hesitation and stuttering movements especially when turning and reaching the end of the task. To the extent that safety permits, patients may NOT use sensory tricks during the assessment.</p> <p>0: Normal: No freezing.</p> <p>1: Slight: Freezes on starting, turning or walking through doorway with a single halt during any of these events, but then continues smoothly without freezing during straight walking.</p> <p>2: Mild: Freezes on starting, turning or walking through doorway with more than one halt during any of these activities, but continues smoothly without freezing during straight walking.</p> <p>3: Moderate: Freezes once during straight walking.</p> <p>4: Severe: Freezes multiple times during straight walking.</p>	<input data-bbox="1310 461 1374 528" type="text"/>
<p><b>3.12 POSTURAL STABILITY</b></p> <p><u>Instructions to examiner:</u> The test examines the response to sudden body displacement produced by a <b>quick, forceful</b> pull on the shoulders while the patient is standing erect with eyes open and feet comfortably apart and parallel to each other. Test retropulsion. Stand behind the patient and instruct the patient on what is about to happen. Explain that s/he is allowed to take a step backwards to avoid falling. There should be a solid wall behind the examiner, at least 1-2 meters away to allow for the observation of the number of retropulsive steps. The first pull is an instructional demonstration and is purposely milder and not rated. The second time the shoulders are pulled briskly and forcefully towards the examiner with enough force to displace the center of gravity so that patient <b>MUST</b> take a step backwards. The examiner needs to be ready to catch the patient, but must stand sufficiently back so as to allow enough room for the patient to take several steps to recover independently. Do not allow the patient to flex the body abnormally forward in anticipation of the pull. Observe for the number of steps backwards or falling. Up to and including two steps for recovery is considered normal, so abnormal ratings begin with three steps. If the patient fails to understand the test, the examiner can repeat the test so that the rating is based on an assessment that the examiner feels reflects the patient's limitations rather than misunderstanding or lack of preparedness. Observe standing posture for item 3.13</p> <p>0: Normal: No problems: Recovers with one or two steps.</p> <p>1: Slight: 3-5 steps, but subject recovers unaided.</p> <p>2: Mild: More than 5 steps, but subject recovers unaided.</p> <p>3: Moderate: Stands safely, but with absence of postural response; falls if not caught by examiner.</p> <p>4: Severe: Very unstable, tends to lose balance spontaneously or with just a gentle pull on the shoulders.</p>	<input data-bbox="1310 1178 1374 1245" type="text"/>

3.13 POSTURE	SCORE
<p>Instructions to examiner: Posture is assessed with the patient standing erect after arising from a chair, during walking, and while being tested for postural reflexes. If you notice poor posture, tell the patient to stand up straight and see if the posture improves (see option 2 below). Rate the worst posture seen in these three observation points. Observe for flexion and side-to-side leaning.</p> <p>0: Normal: No problems.</p> <p>1: Slight: Not quite erect, but posture could be normal for older person.</p> <p>2: Mild: Definite flexion, scoliosis or leaning to one side, but patient can correct posture to normal posture when asked to do so.</p> <p>3: Moderate: Stooped posture, scoliosis or leaning to one side that cannot be corrected voluntarily to a normal posture by the patient.</p> <p>4: Severe: Flexion, scoliosis or leaning with extreme abnormality of posture.</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1321 405 1385 472" type="checkbox"/> </div>
<p><b>3.14 GLOBAL SPONTANEITY OF MOVEMENT (BODY BRADYKINESIA)</b></p> <p>Instructions to examiner: This global rating combines all observations on slowness, hesitancy, and small amplitude and poverty of movement in general, including a reduction of gesturing and of crossing the legs. This assessment is based on the examiner's global impression after observing for spontaneous gestures while sitting, and the nature of arising and walking.</p> <p>0: Normal: No problems.</p> <p>1: Slight: Slight global slowness and poverty of spontaneous movements.</p> <p>2: Mild: Mild global slowness and poverty of spontaneous movements.</p> <p>3: Moderate: Moderate global slowness and poverty of spontaneous movements.</p> <p>4: Severe: Severe global slowness and poverty of spontaneous movements.</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1321 898 1385 965" type="checkbox"/> </div>
<p><b>3.15 POSTURAL TREMOR OF THE HANDS</b></p> <p>Instructions to examiner: All tremor, including re-emergent rest tremor, that is present in this posture is to be included in this rating. Rate each hand separately. Rate the highest amplitude seen. Instruct the patient to stretch the arms out in front of the body with palms down. The wrist should be straight and the fingers comfortably separated so that they do not touch each other. Observe this posture for 10 seconds.</p> <p>0: Normal: No tremor.</p> <p>1: Slight: Tremor is present but less than 1 cm in amplitude.</p> <p>2: Mild: Tremor is at least 1 but less than 3 cm in amplitude.</p> <p>3: Moderate: Tremor is at least 3 but less than 10 cm in amplitude.</p> <p>4: Severe: Tremor is at least 10 cm in amplitude.</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1321 1279 1385 1346" type="checkbox"/>  R </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1321 1447 1385 1514" type="checkbox"/>  L </div>

3.16 KINETIC TREMOR OF THE HANDS	SCORE
<p><b>Instructions to examiner:</b> This is tested by the finger-to-nose maneuver. With the arm starting from the outstretched position, have the patient perform at least three finger-to-nose maneuvers with each hand reaching as far as possible to touch the examiner's finger. The finger-to-nose maneuver should be performed slowly enough not to hide any tremor that could occur with very fast arm movements. Repeat with the other hand, rating each hand separately. The tremor can be present throughout the movement or as the tremor reaches either target (nose or finger). Rate the highest amplitude seen.</p> <p>0: Normal: No tremor.</p> <p>1: Slight: Tremor is present but less than 1 cm in amplitude.</p> <p>2: Mild: Tremor is at least 1 but less than 3 cm in amplitude.</p> <p>3: Moderate: Tremor is at least 3 but less than 10 cm in amplitude.</p> <p>4: Severe: Tremor is at least 10 cm in amplitude.</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1311 376 1378 443" type="checkbox"/>  R </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1311 546 1378 613" type="checkbox"/>  L </div>
<p><b>3.17 REST TREMOR AMPLITUDE</b></p> <p><b>Instructions to examiner:</b> This and the next item have been placed purposefully at the end of the examination to allow the rater to gather observations on rest tremor that may appear at any time during the exam, including when quietly sitting, during walking and during activities when some body parts are moving but others are at rest. Score the maximum amplitude that is seen at any time as the final score. Rate only the amplitude and not the persistence or the intermittency of the tremor. As part of this rating, the patient should sit quietly in a chair with the hands placed on the arms of the chair (not in the lap) and the feet comfortably supported on the floor for 10 seconds with no other directives. Rest tremor is assessed separately for all four limbs and also for the lip/jaw. Rate only the maximum amplitude that is seen at any time as the final rating.</p> <p><b>Extremity ratings</b></p> <p>0: Normal: No tremor.</p> <p>1: Slight.: &lt; 1 cm in maximal amplitude.</p> <p>2: Mild: &gt; 1 cm but &lt; 3 cm in maximal amplitude.</p> <p>3: Moderate: 3 - 10 cm in maximal amplitude.</p> <p>4: Severe: &gt; 10 cm in maximal amplitude.</p> <p><b>Lip/Jaw ratings</b></p> <p>0: Normal: No tremor.</p> <p>1: Slight: &lt; 1 cm in maximal amplitude.</p> <p>2: Mild: &gt; 1 cm but &lt; 2 cm in maximal amplitude.</p> <p>3: Moderate: &gt; 2 cm but &lt; 3 cm in maximal amplitude.</p> <p>4: Severe: &gt; 3 cm in maximal amplitude.</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1311 806 1378 873" type="checkbox"/>  RUE </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1311 976 1378 1043" type="checkbox"/>  LUE </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1311 1146 1378 1214" type="checkbox"/>  RLE </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1311 1317 1378 1384" type="checkbox"/>  LLE </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input data-bbox="1311 1464 1378 1532" type="checkbox"/>  Lip/Jaw </div>



## Scripted MMSE and C.D.T.

### Subject and test details

Name			
NHS Number			
Date of birth - Age	/	/	yrs
Assessed by			
Reason assessed			
Date assessed - Time	/	/	:

Introduce yourself and put the patient at ease, for example –

"Do you mind if we do a short memory test? I do one with everyone I see. Some of the questions are easy, some are harder. Everyone makes mistakes so don't worry if you can't answer some of them"

Score 1 for a correct response and 0 for an incorrect response.

### 1 Orientation

"What year are we in?" (exact only)	
"What season is this?"	
"What month are we in?"	
"What is today's date?" (allow error of one day)	
"What day of the week is it today?" (exact only)	
"What country are we in?"	
"What county are we in?" (Accept Newcastle, Northumberland or Tyne & Wear)	
"What city / town / village are we in?"	
"What is this address / the name of this place?"	
"Name 2 streets nearby" OR "What floor/ ward is this?" (Ask the former if at home or the latter if in hospital)	

### 2 Registration (Allow 3 trials – score first only)

"I'm going to give you the names of three objects. When I've finished I'd like you to repeat them and then remember

Apple (Ball)	
Table (Car)	
Penny (Man)	

### 3 Attention – concentration

"I would like you to take 7 away from 100."  
 "Now keep taking 7 away until I tell you to stop."  
 Record each answer below, awarding one point for each answer which is 7 less than the previous.  
 (An alternative question for people who have never been able to calculate is - "Can you spell WORLD backwards?")

-	-	-	-	
---	---	---	---	--

### 4 Recall

"What were the names of the three objects I asked you to repeat and remember a little while ago?"

Apple (Ball)	
Table (Car)	
Penny (Man)	

### 5 Naming

"What is this called?" (show pen or pencil)

"What is this called?" (show watch)


### 6 Comprehension

"Can you repeat this phrase 'No ifs, ands or buts'?"

"Can you read and do this?" (show close your eyes)


### 7 Praxis

"Can you copy this drawing?" (show pentagon)

"Can you think up & write a complete sentence?"


"Take this paper in your right/left hand, fold it in half with both hands and put it down on your lap."

Takes paper in right /left hand

Folds paper

Lays paper on lap


MMSE Score

### 8 Clock Drawing Test (not part of MMSE)

"Imagine this circle is the face of a clock. Put in all the numbers." "Now set the hands to ten past eleven"

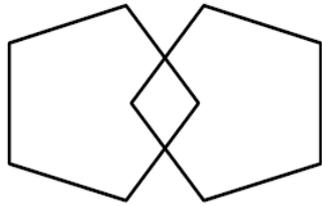
All numbers present

Numbers placed correctly

Hands placed correctly


Comment on any factors which could have influenced performance e.g. sensory deficits or behaviour / mental state / physical state at time of testing.

# Close your eyes

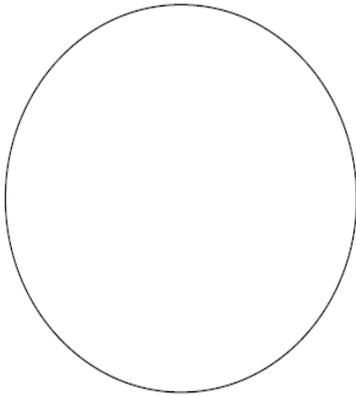


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Sentence

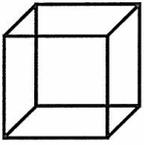
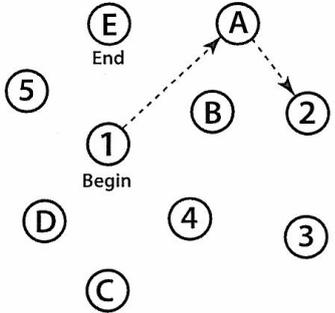
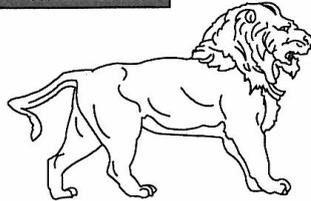
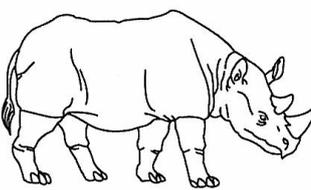
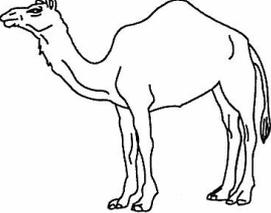
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Clock Face



**MONTREAL COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT (MOCA)**

NAME : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Education : \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sex : \_\_\_\_\_ DATE : \_\_\_\_\_

<b>VISUOSPATIAL / EXECUTIVE</b>		 <p>Copy cube</p>	Draw CLOCK (Ten past eleven) (3 points)	<b>POINTS</b>
	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	[ ] [ ] [ ] Contour Numbers Hands	___/5
<b>NAMING</b>				
			[ ] [ ] [ ]	___/3
<b>MEMORY</b>		Read list of words, subject must repeat them. Do 2 trials, even if 1st trial is successful. Do a recall after 5 minutes.	FACE    VELVET    CHURCH    DAISY    RED	No points
		1st trial		
		2nd trial		
<b>ATTENTION</b>		Read list of digits (1 digit/ sec.). Subject has to repeat them in the forward order [ ] 2 1 8 5 4 Subject has to repeat them in the backward order [ ] 7 4 2		___/2
		Read list of letters. The subject must tap with his hand at each letter A. No points if ≥ 2 errors [ ] FBACMNAAJKLBAFAKDEAAJAMOF AAB		___/1
		Serial 7 subtraction starting at 100 [ ] 93 [ ] 86 [ ] 79 [ ] 72 [ ] 65 4 or 5 correct subtractions: <b>3 pts</b> , 2 or 3 correct: <b>2 pts</b> , 1 correct: <b>1 pt</b> , 0 correct: <b>0 pt</b>		___/3
<b>LANGUAGE</b>		Repeat : I only know that John is the one to help today. [ ] The cat always hid under the couch when dogs were in the room. [ ]		___/2
		Fluency / Name maximum number of words in one minute that begin with the letter F [ ] ____ (N ≥ 11 words)		___/1
<b>ABSTRACTION</b>		Similarity between e.g. banana - orange = fruit [ ] train - bicycle [ ] watch - ruler		___/2
<b>DELAYED RECALL</b>		Has to recall words WITH NO CUE	FACE    VELVET    CHURCH    DAISY    RED [ ]    [ ]    [ ]    [ ]    [ ]	___/5
<b>Optional</b>		Category cue Multiple choice cue		Points for UNCUED recall only
<b>ORIENTATION</b>		[ ] Date [ ] Month [ ] Year [ ] Day [ ] Place [ ] City		___/6
© Z.Nasreddine MD Version 7.1 <a href="http://www.mocatest.org">www.mocatest.org</a>		Normal ≥ 26 / 30	<b>TOTAL</b> ___/30 Add 1 point if ≤ 12 yr edu	

## Geriatric Depression Scale GDS-15

Subject ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Choose the best answer for the way you have felt over the last week:**

Please circle:

- |                                                                               |            |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| 1. Are you basically satisfied with your life?                                | YES        | <b>NO</b> |
| 2. Have you dropped many of your interests and activities?                    | <b>YES</b> | NO        |
| 3. Do you feel that your life is empty?                                       | <b>YES</b> | NO        |
| 4. Do you often get bored?                                                    | <b>YES</b> | NO        |
| 5. Are you in good spirits most of the time?                                  | YES        | <b>NO</b> |
| 6. Are you afraid that something bad is going to happen to you?               | <b>YES</b> | NO        |
| 7. Do you feel happy most of the time?                                        | YES        | <b>NO</b> |
| 8. Do you often feel helpless?                                                | <b>YES</b> | NO        |
| 9. Do you prefer to stay at home, rather than going out and doing new things? | <b>YES</b> | NO        |
| 10. Do you feel that you have more problems with your memory than most?       | <b>YES</b> | NO        |
| 11. Do you think that it is wonderful to be alive now?                        | YES        | <b>NO</b> |
| 12. Do you feel pretty worthless the way you are now?                         | <b>YES</b> | NO        |
| <b>13.</b> Do you feel full of energy?                                        | YES        | <b>NO</b> |
| 14. Do you feel that your situation is hopeless?                              | <b>YES</b> | NO        |
| 15. Do you feel that most people are better off than you are?                 | <b>YES</b> | NO        |

Total score:

## CARU Operating Procedure

### Short Latency Afferent Inhibition

#### General Preparation

- 1) For PD participants, check MDS UPDRS 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6 bilaterally pre- and post-procedure
- 2) Ensure no contraindications:
  - Pregnancy
  - Seizures
  - Cardiac pacemaker/metallic heart valve/aneurysm clips
  - Metalwork in body
- 3) Ensure no mobile phones in pockets of patient and tester, remove credit cards from pockets and take badge off
- 4) Ensure stimulators unarmed (median nerve stimulator on 0)
- 5) Switch on equipment
- 6) Ensure patient relaxed, with arms on pillow placed over arms of chair
- 7) Clean dominant arm and contralateral scalp with alcohol wipes (for PD use most affected arm)

#### EMG Preparation

Channel 1 – not working

Channel 2 – APB (abductor pollicis brevis)

Channel 3 – FDI (first dorsal interossei)

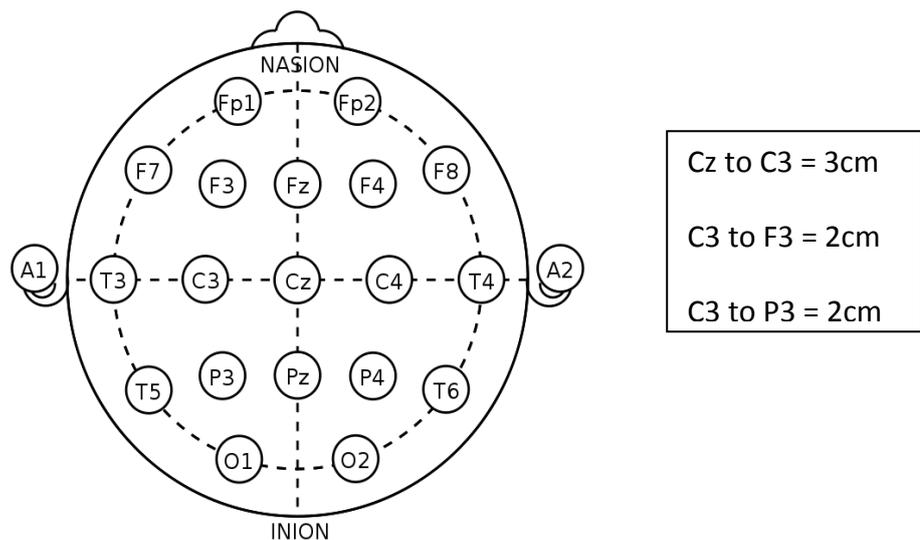
Channel 4 - EEG

Channel 5 – EDC (extensor digitorum communis)

- 1) Place small adhesive EMG electrodes and attach wires over following sites:
  - Thenar eminence with reference electrode over 1<sup>st</sup> MCP joint
  - FDI with reference over 2<sup>nd</sup> MCP joint
  - EDC (landmark= move 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> fingers) with reference over tendon
  - Common reference over radial styloid process
- 2) Place median nerve stimulator electrodes over median nerve at wrist crease (ulna side of Palmaris longus tendon – press thumb and 3<sup>rd</sup> finger together to elicit this) with reference 3cm distal/lateral to tendon (cathode=purple=proximal; anode=white=distal)
- 3) Secure wires with micropore tape to arm and pillow

## EEG Preparation

- 1) Measure electrode positions on scalp in accordance with 10-20 international EEG system and record distances:
  - Nasion –inion
  - Tragus – tragus
  - Intersecting line = vertex (Cz)
  - Measure and mark 3cm lateral, then 2cm anterior and 2cm posterior (F3 and P3, respectively)



- 2) Apply conducting gel over forehead, F3 and P3 and apply EEG electrodes:
  - Grey = reference = forehead
  - Anode = yellow = F3
  - Cathode = purple = P3
- 3) Place gauze over F3 and P3 electrodes then Coban over head to secure
- 4) Secure wires by taping to shoulder

## Determining N20

- 1) Check Digitimer gains as below:

Channel Name	Input Mode	Gain	LowCut (Hz)	HighCut (Hz)	50Hz Notch	Deblock State	Group
Channel 1	Off	1000	30	2000	Out	Reset	2
Channel 2	On	1000	30	2000	Out	Reset	0
Channel 3	On	2000	30	2000	Out	Reset	0
Channel 4	On	50000	3	2000	Out	Reset	0
Channel 5	On	2000	30	2000	Out	Reset	0
Channel 6	Off	2000	30	2000	Out	Reset	2
Channel 7	Off	2000	30	2000	Out	Reset	2
Channel 8	Off	2000	30	2000	Out	Reset	2

- 2) Open Spike 2 sampling configuration:  
 Local disc C / spike 2 / work / SAI / .pls files / SEPFHO / run now /  
 'sample now' (see picture of button) / 'start' button:



```

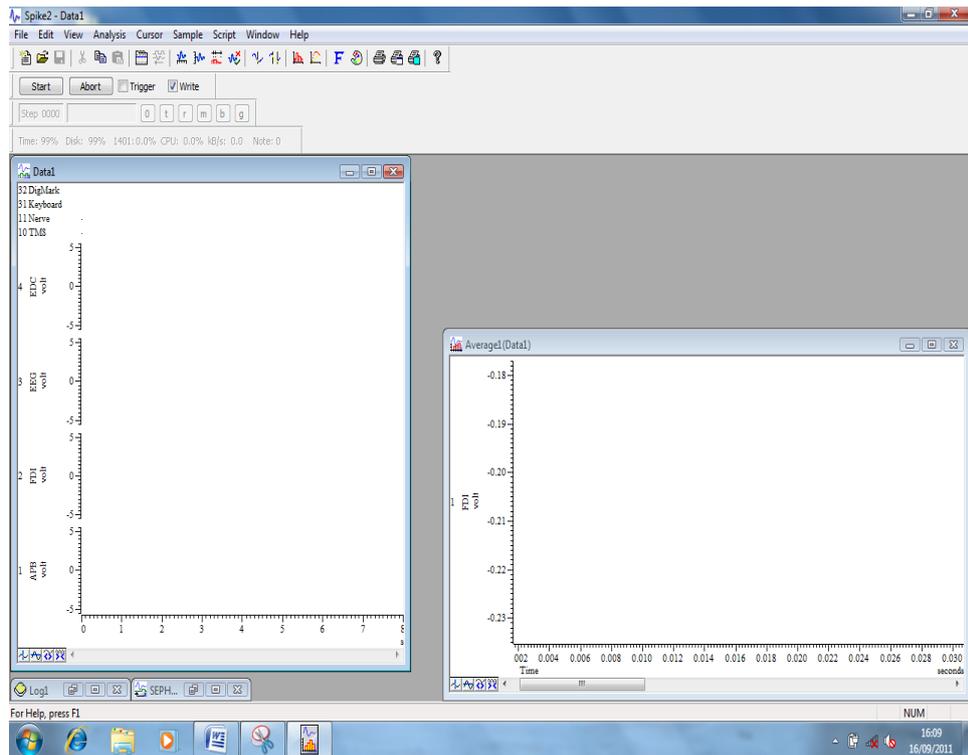
Now current
set 0,1,1,0

noth: '0 jump noth

test: 'm DAC 0,5 ;12mA [for setting stimulus intensity]
      DELAY 10000
      DIGOUT [00000010]
      DIGOUT [00000000]
      JUMP test

sep1: 's MOVI V1,2000
sep2: DAC 0,5 ;Running SEP average
      DELAY 2100
      DIGOUT [00000011]
      DIGOUT [00000000]
      DBNZ V1, sep2
      JUMP noth
  
```

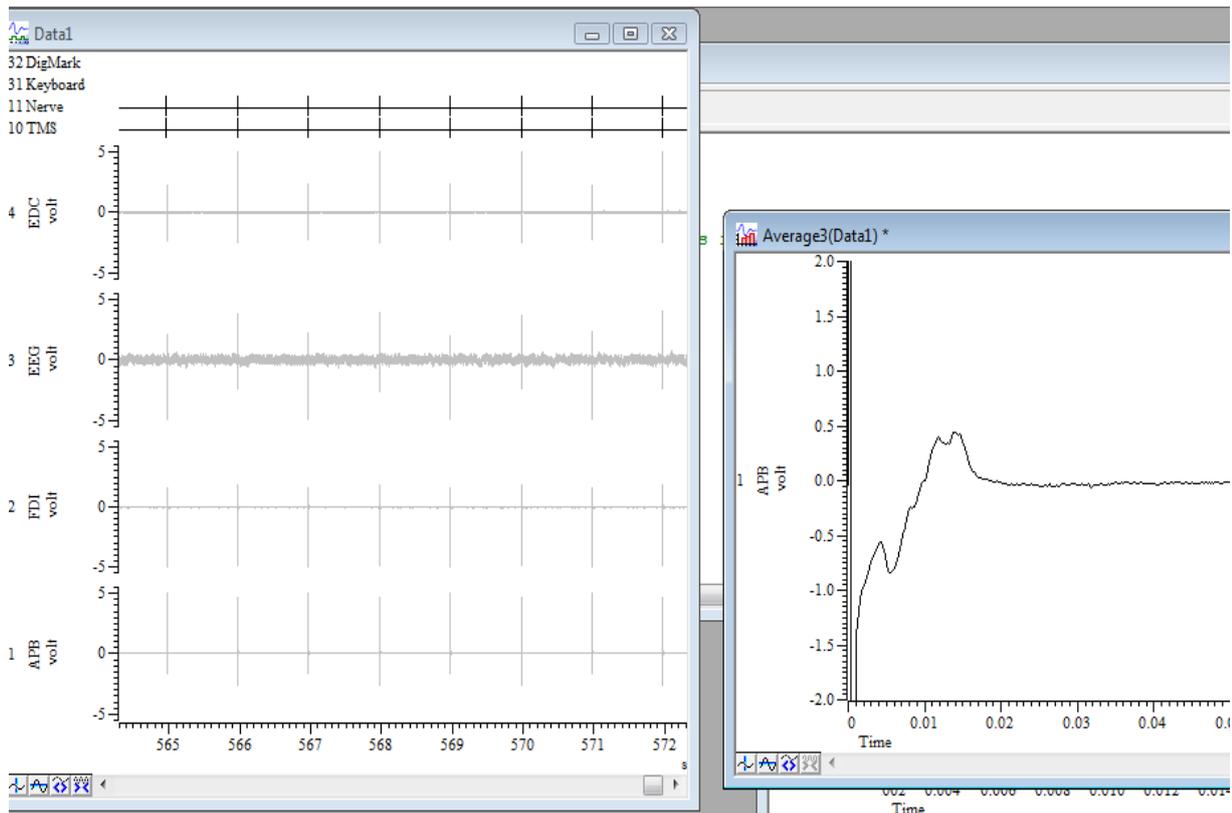
Ensure on the SEPFHO screen that the screen is current by pressing button below blue arrow



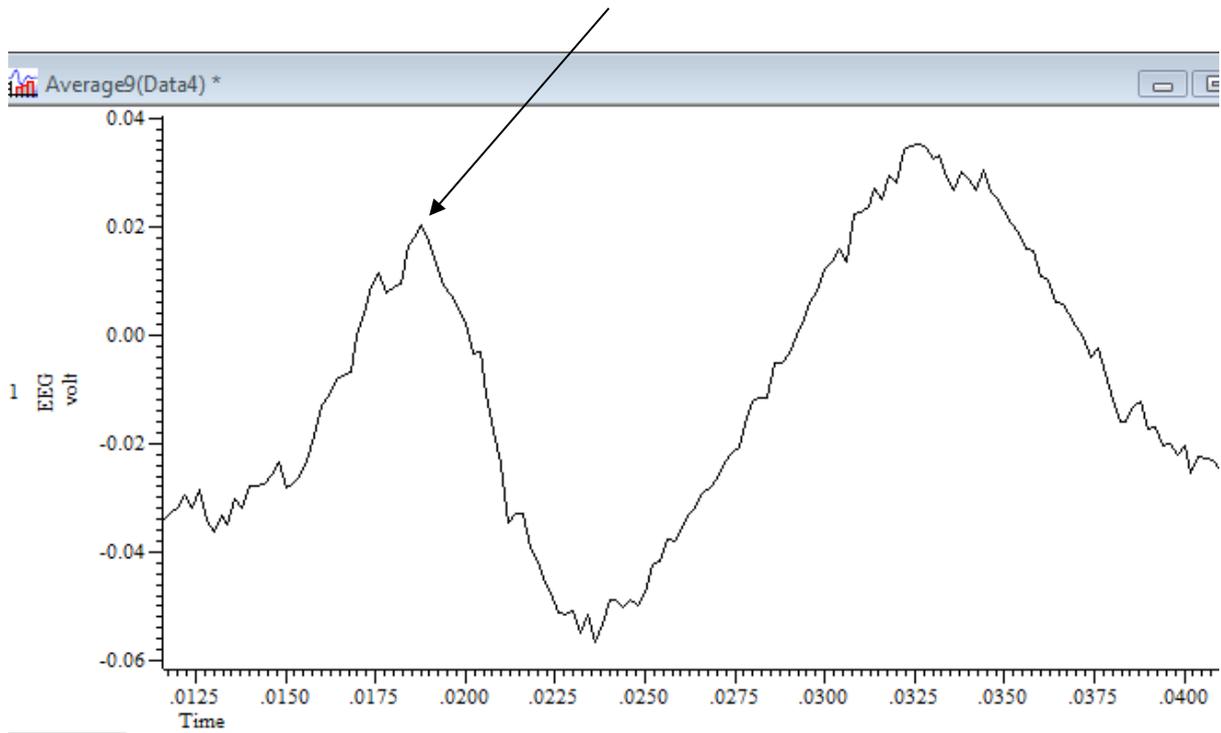
- 3) Check EEG working- ask patient to close eyes and clench teeth
- 4) Check EMG working- move thumb/1<sup>st</sup> finger/3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> finger against resistance
- 5) May need to reduce gain if these EMG readings fill -5 to +5 to avoid clipping
- 6) Set up average:  
 Analysis / new result view / waveform average / APB / trigger nerve / unclick mean / new / all data / ok / last data / 2 seconds

**Do not 'Optimise display'**

- 7) Median nerve stimulation – warn patient it may feel like pins and needles:
  - Check pulse width 200  $\mu$ V
  - Turn on clear button
  - Turn on output (button up)
  - Click on 'm' button
  - Increase voltage until you find luminal threshold (see M wave on screen = direct activation of muscle)



- Note threshold
  - Add 20% to find SEP and note this
  - NB –need to optimise Y axis- right click on Y axis, optimise Y axis, change gain from 2 to -2
- 8) Click on abort
  - 9) Click on 'sample now' button on top left of screen
  - 10) Ensure SEPFHO configuration open and current, then Analysis / new result view / waveform average / EEG /display mean / all data / optimise data
  - 11) Click 'write' then 'start' then 's' (=SEPs)
  - 12) Check on average screen. 2000 sweeps takes around 8 minutes, may need to enlarge EEG screen
  - 13) When sweeps have finished, click on data screen (not average screen):  
File / save / local disc C / data storage / save as e.g.20110824INC061MRB00  
(New directory)
  - 14) On average 2 screen, check N20:  
Click on 'cursor' / label mode / position



- 15) Note peak at N20 (e.g. 19.6 = 0.0196) and negative peak at p15 (e.g. 15.8 = 0.0158)
- 16) Do not save average screen
- 17) Close data 2
- 18) Remove EEG electrodes
- 19) Turn median nerve output off on digitimer box (isolate switch)

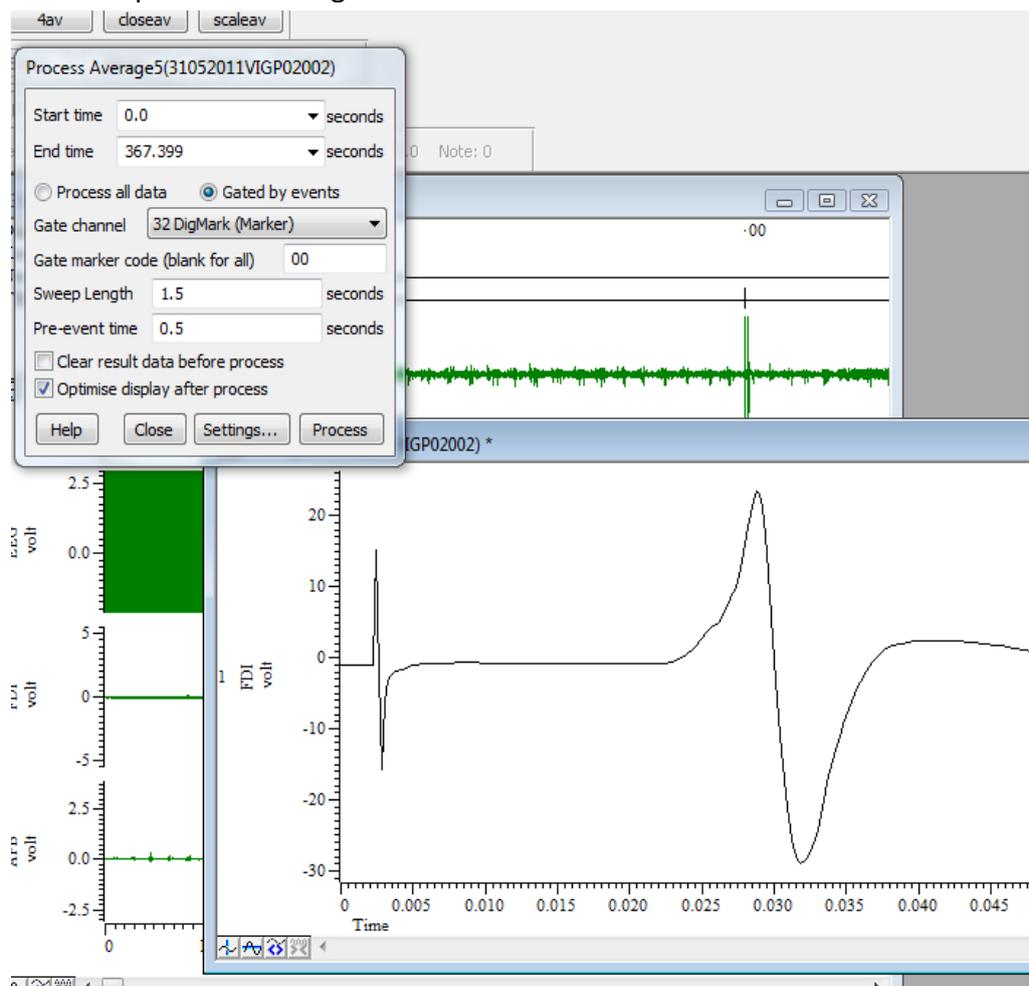
## TMS

- 1) Open file / open / SAI (ensure 'files of type' are sequencer files.pls) / SAI.diffint
- 2) In proc 2-6, insert N20 in proc 2 then add 1ms each time e.g 206, 216 etc and save – **Ctrl 'S'**  
**Do not input to proc1 or 'both' – only change proc 2 and continue to proc 6**
- 3) Analysis / new result view / waveform average / FDI channel / trigger – TMS / unclick mean / new / last 5 seconds / take 'off' optimise display / apply / ok
- 4) Place Magstim with centre of coil over vertex. If using R arm, A side up; L arm = B side up
- 5) Magstim power on and armed
- 6) Green button arms
- 7) Take 'write' off
- 8) Start
- 9) Click on 't' (=TMS)
- 10) Start at 30% maximum stimulator output (MSO) and increase until MEP (~5  $\mu$ V in size) is elicited in APB in 50% of 10 trials, to nearest 1% MSO. This is the resting motor threshold (RMT). Note this value

- 11) Increase MSO to 20% above this for SAI testing and note this, where 20 TMS only trials will be randomly alternated with 50 conditioned trials at N20, N20 +1ms, N20+2ms, N20 +3ms and N20 +4ms.
- 12) Turn on median nerve output
- 13) Click on 'write' and then 'g' (=go)
- 14) **Click on data screen:**  
File / save / local disc C / date storage e.g. 20110824INC061MRB01

## Analysis

- 1) Open the data, then Analysis / new result view / waveform average / FDI / trigger = 32DigMark (Marker) / display mean / new / Gated by events / insert gate marker code separately for each value (i.e. 00 for TMS alone, 01 for TMS plus N20 etc)
- 2) Measure peaks on average screen



## References

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- Aarsland, D., Andersen, K., Larsen, J.P., Lolk, A., Nielsen, H. and Kragh-Sorensen, P. (2001) 'Risk of dementia in Parkinson's disease - A community-based, prospective study', *Neurology*, 56(6), pp. 730-736.
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