PD SENSORS: SPHERE Technology in Parkinson's Disease

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1. Introduction

Parkinson's disease (PD) is a neurodegenerative disease which causes gait dysfunction in patients, amongst other symptoms. There is no cure; the way in which PD is measured in clinical trials of potential neuroprotective therapies uses "snapshot" clinician-patient interactions which do not capture the hour-by-hour fluctuations in symptoms and slow progression. Mobility ability is linked to quality of life in PD. Mobility-related outcomes could be functionally-relevant digital biomarkers in PD. Figure 1. Correlations between turning of gait parameters and the gold-standard clinical rating scale score (MDS-UPDRS III) .Η



2. Results

Analysis of the video data, labelled second-by-second by human raters, shows the promise of mobility-related activities as markers of symptom progression in PD.

Sit-to-stand (STS^{)1,} turning of gait² and room-to-room transition³ duration all can differentiate between the ON and OFF (withholding symptom improving medications) medication states in PD, and between PD and control (see figure 2 for STS). Furthermore, there are strong correlations between STS duration/speed, and turning duration/number of steps taken to turn (figure 1), and the goldstandard clinical rating scale scores.

Figure 2. Illustration of average STS speed (m/s) in control participants compared to participants with PD ON and OFF medications



3. Conclusions

Mobility-related parameters from realworld data show promise as digital biomarkers of disease progression in PD.

Larger datasets for longer periods of time are needed for fine-tuning of algorithms to automatically detect and quantify mobility-related activities in diverse naturalistic settings of people's own homes.

References

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SPHERE - a Sensor Platform for HealthcarE in a Residential Environment (2013-2023, £11.7M, EP/K031910/1 + £3.6M, EP/R005273/1)