**SPEECH AND VOICE DISORDERS IN EARLY UNTREATED PARKINSON’S DISEASE**

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**BACKGROUND and AIMS**

The term hypokinetic dysarthria (HD) is in use to describe characteristic disorder of speech corresponding to cardinal motor symptoms of Parkinson’s disease (PD). HD initiates to restriction in range, speed and regularity of orofacial movements, and to deficits in respiration, phonation and phonetics. Although a 70-90% occurrence of HD has been estimated in advanced PD [1-3], it is unclear whether HD is present since early stages of PD. The aim of the present study was to identify symptoms of HD in patients with early untreated PD.

**RESULTS**

Dysarthric profile 3F – clinical evaluation:

12 out of 17 PD patients and none of HC fulfilled the criteria of HD. Individual signs of HD were found in the majority of PD patients (Table 1, Figure 1). Hypomimia, hoarse voice in sustained vowels and reduced melody of speech were the most frequent signs of HD in PD group.

Acoustic analysis AA discovered significantly worse performances of PD patients compared to HC, in tasks focused on phonation of sustained vowel /i/, on ability to maintain appropriate rhythm and on melody of speech (Table 2, Figures 2, 3).

The results of AA closely correlated with DP3F evaluation of recordings (Table 3).

**CONCLUSIONS**

Most of patients with early untreated PD show symptoms of HD.

Hypomimia, hoarse voice in phonation of vowels and reduced melody of speech are the most frequent symptoms of HD in early stage of PD.

Acoustic analysis confirms the results of clinical evaluation.

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**REFERENCES**