

Results: A total of 72 patients were included. The main characteristics of the sample are shown in table 1. Among these patients, 65.28% exhibited NPS; notably, 49.3% had depression, 23.61% behavioral disturbances, 19.44% sleep disorders, 16.67% anxiety, 4.17% psychosis, and 2.82% suicidal ideation. In patients with a positive APscan, 29.79% had NPS, including 34.29% with depression and 66.67% with psychosis. Patients with abnormal FDG-PET scans showed higher NPS prevalence (65.96%), particularly behavioral disturbances (64.71%), sleep disorders (57.14%), and depression (62.86%).

Image:

Mean of age	61,75 years	
Gender	Male	45,83%
	Female	54,17%
Global deterioration scale	3	75,71%
	4	12,86%
Cognitive tests	MOCA	25,41%
	MMSE	26,07%
Neurological Diagnosis post PET	Alzheimer Disease (AD)	25,00%
	Lewy Body Dementia	5,00%
	Frontotemporal Dementia	10,00%
FDG- PET Scan Pattern	Alzheimer-like	16,67%
	Altered no AD Pattern	51,39%
	Non Conclusive	15,28%
Amyloid PET Scan Pattern	Positive	36,11%
	Negative	63,89%

Table 1. Main characteristics of the sample

Conclusions: This study underscores the high incidence of NPS in MCI patients, noting that NPS may exacerbate patient distress, contribute to autonomy loss, and increase institutionalization risk. Furthermore, molecular imaging patterns can help predict MCI progression to dementia and highlight NPS as potential predictors and outcomes of these biological changes.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPV1045

Apathy, Beta-amyloid Burden and Cognitive Decline in Parkinson’s Disease Patients

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doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2025.1664

Introduction: Apathy is a common non-motor symptom in Parkinson’s disease (PD), and its presence constitutes a risk factor for the development of cognitive impairment in this population (Burchill et al. Lancet Reg Health Eur 2024; 39:100870). β -amyloidopathy has been associated to shorter interval to dementia in PD and may also be a determinant of apathy.

Objectives: We aimed to investigate β -amyloid burden in non-demented PD patients based on the presence or absence of apathy, and how both factors influence the rate of progression to mild cognitive impairment or dementia over a 3-year period.

Methods: Forty-eight PD patients underwent clinical and comprehensive neuropsychological evaluation, as well as [18F]-flutemetamol positron emission tomography. They were classified as apathetic (n=22) or non-apatetic (n=26) based on their score on the Starkstein Apathy Scale. Brain imaging analysis was conducted using the SPM software package.

Results: We found statistically significant differences in disease duration when comparing clinical and demographic variables. Upon neuropsychological evaluation, apathetic patients performed significantly worse in attention domain (Digit Span and Trail Making Test A), executive function (Stroop Word-Colour Test and Trail Making Test B) and verbal memory (CERAD Total Word Recall). At follow up, 47.4% of apathetic patients progressed to dementia or MCI, compared to 12% of non-apatetic patients ($\chi^2 = 6.81$, $p < 0.05$). Brain imaging analysis revealed higher β -amyloid deposition in several cortical areas in apathetic PD patients (adjusted for disease duration and global composite cognitive z-scores).

Conclusions: The presence of apathy in PD patients is associated with greater cortical β -amyloidopathy and indicates a higher conversion rate to a worse cognitive diagnosis within a 3-year period.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPV1046

Gray matter macrostructure and brain aging in unhealthy alcohol users

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doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2025.1665