

**Biomarkers for Dementia and Mild Cognitive Impairment in Parkinson's Disease**

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## **Abstract**

Cognitive decline is one of the most frequent and disabling non-motor features of Parkinson's disease. Around 30% of patients with Parkinson's disease experience mild cognitive impairment, a well-established risk factor for the development of dementia. However, mild cognitive impairment in patients with Parkinson's disease is a heterogeneous entity that involves different types and extents of cognitive deficits. Since it is not currently known which type of mild cognitive impairment confers a higher risk of progression to dementia, it would be useful to define biomarkers that could identify these patients to better study disease progression and possible interventions. In this sense, the identification among patients with Parkinson's disease and mild cognitive impairment of biomarkers associated with dementia would allow the early detection of this process. This review summarizes studies from the last 25 years that have assessed potential biomarkers of dementia and mild cognitive impairment in Parkinson's disease patients. Despite the potential importance, no biomarker has as yet been validated. However, features such as low levels of epidermal and insulin-like growth factors or uric acid in plasma/serum and of A $\beta$  in CSF, reduction of cerebral cholinergic innervation and metabolism measured by

PET mainly in posterior areas, and hippocampal atrophy in MRI might be indicative of dementia or of subgroups of patients with distinct subtypes of cognitive deficits with a distinct risk of dementia. Therefore, longitudinal studies combining the existing techniques and new approaches will be needed to identify patients at higher risk of dementia.

## **INTRODUCTION**

It is only in recent decades that cognitive impairment has become recognized as a relevant clinical manifestation of PD, the prevalence of dementia reaching 80% in long-term patients.<sup>1,2</sup> Mild cognitive impairment (MCI) is also highly prevalent in PD (PD-MCI: mean 26.7%; range 18.9%–38.2%)<sup>3</sup> and it is known to be a risk factor for dementia (PDD).<sup>3-7</sup> PD-MCI is defined as cognitive decline that is not normal for the age and educational level of the patient but that is not associated with impaired functional activity.<sup>8</sup> However, PD-MCI is a heterogeneous entity that covers several forms of cognitive impairment in function of the number and type of cognitive domains affected.<sup>8</sup> It is not currently known which types of PD-MCI confer a higher risk of progression to dementia. In this sense, useful biomarkers are needed that can predict future outcome or that are useful to longitudinally track the underlying disease pathology in an objective way. Thus, there is increasing interest in the search for biomarkers that could aid in the identification of such PD-MCI patients. The assessment of biomarkers already associated with PDD in PD-MCI patients is one interesting approach to define subtypes of MCI that share biological features with dementia. In this review, we summarize the data currently available regarding the biological markers of dementia and MCI in PD.

## **LITERATURE SEARCHING STRATEGY**

The literature in Medline (PubMed) from 1990 to July 2015 was reviewed using the free search terms Parkinson's disease AND (dementia OR mild cognitive impairment), combined with the following terms/sets of terms: cerebrospinal fluid; blood OR plasma; genes OR DNA OR polymorphism; magnetic resonance imaging; PET; SPECT; electroencephalogram; magnetoencephalography; evoked potentials. The search was limited to articles in English and the reference lists were searched for additional publications. Since the concept of PD-MCI was introduced only a few years ago and the diagnostic criteria (MDS Task Force)<sup>8</sup> were only recently adopted, some studies only distinguished between PDD and non-demented PD patients (PDND), while in others cognitively normal PD patients (PDCN) and PD-MCI were considered. Notably, several studies did not specify whether PD patients were PDCN or PDND, referring to them just as PD. In this review we will maintain the nomenclature used in the original papers. In addition to the studies in which a diagnosis of PDD or PD-MCI was indicated, those studying correlations between biomarkers and cognitive performance have been considered. Studies in which cognitive diagnosis was only based on subjective medical assessment, without any formal neuropsychological evaluation, case reports and case series were excluded.

## **CEREBROSPINAL FLUID**

The presence of Lewy bodies (LB), amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles in the neocortex and limbic system is associated with dementia<sup>9-13</sup> and MCI<sup>14, 15</sup> in PD. Hence, the levels of amyloid- $\beta$  (A $\beta$ ), tau protein and  $\alpha$ -synuclein have been studied in the

cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) of PD patients (Table 1). In most studies, there was less A $\beta$  in PDD than in healthy controls<sup>16-20</sup> and PDND<sup>16, 18, 19</sup> patients, and lower levels of A $\beta$  were associated with progression to dementia in PDND patients<sup>21</sup> and a deterioration in attention,<sup>22</sup> executive function,<sup>22, 23</sup> memory<sup>22, 23</sup> and global cognition.<sup>24</sup> By contrast, the data for total (t-tau) and phosphorylated tau (p-tau) are less consistent, with increased<sup>16, 18, 25, 26</sup> or unchanged levels<sup>17, 27-30</sup> in PDD patients. In PD-MCI patients, there was less<sup>17</sup> or similar<sup>31, 32</sup> A $\beta$  to that in PDCN patients, while t-tau was higher<sup>32</sup> or no different,<sup>17, 31</sup> and p-tau was comparable in both.<sup>17, 31, 32</sup> Interestingly, in PDND patients, low levels of A $\beta$ <sup>24, 25, 33-35</sup> and a low A $\beta$  1-42/total tau<sup>24, 34</sup> ratio were associated with impairment in several cognitive domains or tests: attention and working memory,<sup>34</sup> executive function,<sup>35</sup> memory,<sup>33, 35</sup> and phonemic<sup>21</sup> and semantic fluency.<sup>34</sup> Although the total  $\alpha$ -synuclein was similar in PDD and PDND patients or controls in initial studies,<sup>26, 36</sup> technically more advanced analyses show that PDD patients have more oligomeric forms of  $\alpha$ -synuclein,<sup>18, 37</sup> and a higher total  $\alpha$ -synuclein concentration was associated with a faster decline in cognitive performance in *de novo* patients.<sup>38</sup> However, most studies fail to find any association between total or oligomeric  $\alpha$ -synuclein and cognition in PDND patients.<sup>24, 35,</sup>

**Table 1.** Summary of the studies that evaluated CSF amyloid  $\beta$ 1-42 (A $\beta$ 1-42), total tau (t-tau), phosphorylated tau (p-tau), total  $\alpha$ -synuclein (t- $\alpha$ -syn), and oligomeric  $\alpha$ -synuclein (o- $\alpha$ -syn) as potential biomarkers for PDD or PD-MCI.

	STUDIED BIOMARKERS					PATIENTS				COGNITIVE EVALUATION / DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA	MAIN RESULTS/FINDINGS	
	A $\beta$ 1-42	T-tau	P-tau	T- $\alpha$ -syn	O- $\alpha$ -syn	PDND	PDCN	PDD	PD-MCI	Control		
<b>PDD</b>												
Jansen et al., 1998 <sup>27</sup>		+	+			67		48		41	MMSE / PDD if < 26	
Parnetti et al., 2008 <sup>28</sup>	+	+	+			20		8		20	MMSE / PDD by McKeith et al., 1996	
Maetzler et al., 2011 <sup>41</sup>	+	+				21		10		39	MMSE / PDD by DSM-IV	No differences
Maetzler et al., 2012 <sup>30</sup>	+	+				77		26		72	MMSE / PDD by DSM-IV and MDS Task Force	
Wennström et al., 2013 <sup>36</sup>				+		38		22		52	MMSE / PDD by MDS Task Force	
Mollenhauer et al., 2006 <sup>16</sup>	+	+				23		73		41	MMSE / PDD if < 25	PDD vs. PDND and C: $\downarrow$ A $\beta$ 1-42 PDD vs. C: $\uparrow$ t-tau
Maetzler et al., 2009 <sup>20</sup>	+					14		12			MMSE / PDD by DSM-IV	PDD vs. PDND: $\downarrow$ A $\beta$ 42
Compta et al., 2009 <sup>25</sup>	+	+				20		20		30	MMSE, attention and working memory, executive, memory, language, visuospatial / PDD by DSM-IV-R and MDS Task Force	PDD vs. PDND and C: $\uparrow$ t-tau PDND: $\downarrow$ A $\beta$ 1-42 positively correlated with phonemic fluency
Compta et al., 2011 <sup>19</sup>	+	+	+			19		19		9	MMSE / PDD by DSM-IV-R and MDS Task Force	PDD vs. PDND and C: $\downarrow$ A $\beta$ 1-42 $\uparrow$ t-tau and p-tau in a subgroup of PDND and PDD with the rs242557 A-allele of <i>MAPT</i> and with levels of A $\beta$ 1-42 < 500 pg/mL

Hall et al., 2012 <sup>26</sup>	+	+	+	+	90	33	107	MMSE / PDD by MDS Task Force	PDD vs. PDND: ↑ p-tau No differences in Aβ1-42 or t-α-syn		
Vranová et al., 2014 <sup>29</sup>	+	+			27	14	24	MMSE, attention and working memory, executive, memory / PDD by MDS Task Force	PDD vs. PDND: ↑ t-tau/Aβ1-42 index No differences in Aβ1-42 or t-tau		
Hansson et al., 2014 <sup>37</sup>				+	+	30		98	MMSE / PDD by MDS Task Force	PDD vs. C: ↑ o-α-syn	
Compta et al., 2015 <sup>18</sup>	+	+		+	+	21	20	13	MMSE / PDD by MDS Task Force	PDD vs. PDND and C: ↓ Aβ1-42 and ↑ t-tau PDD vs. C: ↑ o-α-syn	
<b>PD-MCI</b>											
Beyer et al., 2013 <sup>31</sup>	+	+	+			73	18		MMSE, attention and working memory, executive, memory, visuospatial / PD-MCI if performance < 1.5 SDs below predicted level in ≥ 1 cognitive domains	No differences	
Montine et al., 2010 <sup>17</sup>	+	+	+			41	11	58	150	CDR / PDD by MDS Task Force; PD-MCI by CDR=0.5	PDD vs. C: ↓ Aβ1-42 PD-MCI vs. C: ↓ Aβ1-42 No differences in t-tau and p-tau
Yu et al., 2014 <sup>32</sup>	+	+	+			26	36	31	MMSE, MOCA / PDD and PD-MCI by MDS Task Force	PD-MCI vs. PDCN and C: ↑ t-tau PD-MCI: MOCA negatively correlated with t-tau	
<b>PDND*</b>											
Alves et al., 2010 <sup>33</sup>	+	+	+			109		36	MMSE, attention and working memory, executive, memory, visuospatial / PDD by MDS Task Force	Positive correlation between Aβ42, Aβ38 and Aβ40 and memory	
Siderowf et al., 2010 <sup>22 §</sup>	+	+	+			45			DRS-2, memory, attention and working memory, initiation-perseveration, construction, and conceptualization / PDD if DRS-2 < 124	↓ Aβ1-42 associated with decline in attention, conceptualization, memory and initiation/perseveration	

Leverenz et al., 2011 <sup>34</sup>	+	+				22		MMSE, attention and working memory, memory, semantic fluency, executive, processing speed / PDD by consensus panel based on CDR	Positive correlation between Aβ1-42, attention and working memory Positive correlation between Aβ42/t-tau and working memory, attention and semantic fluency
Compta et al., 2013 <sup>21 §</sup>	+					27		MMSE, executive, memory, language, visuospatial / PDD by MDS Task Force	↓ Aβ1-42 in dementia-converters Positive correlation between Aβ1-42 and lower phonemic fluency
Stewart et al., 2014 <sup>38 §</sup>				+		304		MMSE, attention and working memory, memory, visuospatial / PDD if MMSE < 23	↑ t-α-syn at baseline predicts faster cognitive decline
Parnetti et al., 2014 <sup>24 §</sup>	+	+	+	+	+	44	25	MMSE, MOCA	Aβ1-42 negative correlation with decline in MMSE and MOCA Aβ1-42 and t-tau negative correlation with decline in MMSE
Liu et al., 2015 <sup>23 §</sup>	+	+	+			403		MMSE, attention and working memory, executive, memory, visuospatial	No association with cognitive function at baseline T-tau and p-tau/Aβ1-42 predicted decline in memory and executive function
Buddhala et al., 2015 <sup>39</sup>	+	+	+	+		77	30	CRD, Attention and working memory, executive, memory, language, visuospatial / PDD by CRD	No association with cognition
Stav et al., 2015 <sup>35</sup>	+	+	+	+		31	34	Attention and working memory, executive, visuospatial	Positive correlation between Aβ1-42 and memory and response inhibition
Backstrom et al., 2015 <sup>47 §</sup>	+	+	+	+		99		Attention and working memory, executive, memory, visuospatial / PDD and PD-MCI by modified MDS Task Force	↓ Aβ1-42 associated with progression to PDD

**Abbreviations. Subjects:** PDND, Parkinson's disease non-demented; PDD, Parkinson's disease with dementia; PD-MCI, Parkinson's disease with mild cognitive impairment; PDCN, Parkinson's disease cognitively normal; C, control. **Cognitive assessment:** MMSE, Mini Mental State Examination; MOCA, Montreal Cognitive



Assessment; DRS-2, Mattis Dementia Rating Scale (version 2); MDS, Movement Disorders Society; CDR, Clinical Dementia Rating; DSM, Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

\* In these studies PDD patients were excluded according to the criteria shown. No distinction between PDCN and PD-MCI was considered in PDND patients

§ Longitudinal studies

Proteins involved in inflammatory processes, oxidative stress and neuronal viability have also been investigated (Supplementary table 1). More C-reactive protein (CRP) was found in PDD patients than in PDND and controls,<sup>40</sup> and interleukin-6 (IL-6) and IL-1 $\beta$  were more elevated in PD-MCI than in PDCN patients or controls.<sup>32</sup> PD-MCI patients also had less interferon- $\gamma$  (IFN- $\gamma$ ) and tumor necrosis factor  $\alpha$  (TNF- $\alpha$ ), and higher levels of nitric oxide and hydroxyl radical than controls.<sup>32</sup> In addition, some of these proteins were associated with global cognition in PDND<sup>40</sup> and PD-MCI patients.<sup>32</sup> Uric acid (UA),<sup>41</sup> a scavenger of free radicals, and cystatin C,<sup>42</sup> which has anti-amyloidogenic properties, were also reduced in PDD and dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB) patients. Other proteins, such as brain derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), eotaxin, ferritin, hypocretin and transthyretin<sup>32, 34, 40, 43, 44</sup> did not differ between PDD and PDND or controls. Finally, recent proteomic analyses reveal that some proteins involved in signaling pathways, axonal guiding or protein folding<sup>45, 46</sup> were differentially expressed in PDD and PDND patients. Interestingly, a profile characterized by low A $\beta$ 1-42, high neurofilament light chain protein and high heart fatty acid-binding protein was associated with progression to PDD, with a relatively high diagnostic accuracy.<sup>47</sup>

Despite some variability, reduced A $\beta$  in PDD patients and in PDND who progressed to dementia appears to be relatively consistent.<sup>16-24</sup> Along with the heterogeneity in A $\beta$  concentrations in PD-MCI<sup>17, 31, 32</sup> and the fact that low A $\beta$  correlates with specific cognitive deficits in PDND patients,<sup>24, 25, 33-35</sup> this suggests that A $\beta$  protein might represent a useful biomarker to identify specific types of PD-MCI that might be at higher risk of suffering dementia (patients with concomitant Alzheimer's disease [AD] or AD pathological changes). Although based on few studies, an increase in  $\alpha$ -synuclein oligomers should also be considered.<sup>18, 26, 36-38</sup> Differences in proteins related to

inflammation,<sup>32, 40</sup> oxidative stress<sup>41</sup> and cell survival are also promising.<sup>45, 46</sup> Proteomic analysis might also be considered to validate and expand current data in future studies.

**Supplementary table 1.** Summary of studies assessing CSF potential biomarkers for PDD and PD-MCI other than neuropathologic proteins and studies assessing potential biomarkers in plasma/serum and urine.

BIOMARKER	PATHWAY / MECHANISM	PATIENTS	COGNITIVE EVALUATION / DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA	MAIN FINDINGS / RESULTS
<b>CSF</b>				
<b>PDD</b>				
Kuiper et al., 1994 <sup>43</sup>	Ferritin	Iron carrier	PDND (n=72) PDD (n=15) C (n=20)	PDD by DSM-III-R No differences
Compta et al., 2009 <sup>44</sup>	Hypocretin	Neuropeptid	PDND (n=21) PDD (n=20) C (n=22)	MMSE / PDD by DSM-IV-R and MDS Task Force No differences
Maetzler et al., 2010 <sup>42</sup>	Cystatin C	Antiamyloidogenic	PDND (n=52) PDD (n=24) C (n=36)	MMSE / PDD by DSM-IV PDD vs. C: ↓
Maetzler et al., 2011 <sup>41</sup>	Uric acid	Oxidative stress	PDND (n=55) PDD (n=20) C (n=76)	MMSE / PDD by DSM-IV PDD/DLB vs. PDND: ↓
Maetzler et al., 2012 <sup>30</sup>	Transthyretin	Thyroxine and retinol carrier	PDND (n=77) PDD (n=26) C (n=72)	MMSE / PDD by DSM-IV and MDS Task Force No differences
Jesse et al., 2012 <sup>45</sup>	Serpin A1	Serine protease inhibitor	PDND (n=24) PDD (n=21) C (n=24)	MMSE, attention and working memory, executive, memory, language, visuospatial / PDD by DSM-IV Differentially sialylated isoforms of Serpin A1 identified PDD vs. PDND with 100 % sensitivity and 58 % specificity
Lehnert et al., 2012 <sup>46</sup>	Eotaxin, Netrin G1, non-receptor Tyrosine-kinase type 13	Miscellaneous	PD (n=12) PDD (n=12) C (n=12)	MMSE, executive, visuospatial / PDD by DSM-IV PDD vs. C: ↑ Netrin G1 and non-receptor Tyrosine-kinase type 13
Hall et al., 2012 <sup>26</sup>	Neurofilament light chain	Neuronal structure	PDND (n=90) PDD (n=33) C (n=107)	MMSE / PDD by MDS Task Force PDD vs. PDND: ↑

Lindqvist et al., 2013 <sup>40</sup>	CRP, IL-6, TNF- $\alpha$ , IP10, MIP1 $\beta$ , MCP1	Inflammation/immune response	PDND (n=71) PDD (n=16) C (n=33)	MMSE / PDD by MDS Task Force	PDD vs. PDND and C: $\uparrow$ CRP PDND: IL-6 negative correlation with MMSE.
Wennström et al., 2013 <sup>36</sup>	Neurosin	Serin protease	PDND (n=38) PDD (n=22) C (n=52)	MMSE / PDD by MDS Task Force	No differences
<b>PD-MCI</b>					
Yu et al., 2014 <sup>32</sup>	IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-6, TNF- $\alpha$ , INF- $\gamma$ , PGE <sub>2</sub> OH, H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> , NO	Inflammation/immune response Oxidative stress	PDCN (n=26) PD-MCI (n=36) C (n=31)	MMSE, MOCA / PD-MCI by MDS Task Force	PD-MCI vs. C: $\uparrow$ IL-1 $\beta$ and IL-6, $\downarrow$ TNF- $\alpha$ and INF- $\gamma$ . $\uparrow$ OH and NO. No differences in H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> PD-MCI vs. PDCN: $\uparrow$ IL-6. No differences in PGE <sub>2</sub> PD-MCI: IL-6 negative correlation with MOCA.
<b>PDND</b>					
Leverenz et al., 2011 <sup>34</sup>	Brain Derived Neurotrophic Factor	Neurotrophic factors	PDND (n=22)	MMSE, attention and working memory, memory, semantic fluency, executive, processing speed / PDD by consensus panel based on CDR	Positive correlation with attention and working memory
Backstrom et al., 2015 <sup>47</sup>	Neurofilament light chain protein, heart fatty acid-binding protein	Neuronal structure / Lipid metabolism	PDND (n=99) <i>Longitudinal (9 years)</i>	Attention and working memory, executive, memory, visuospatial / PDD and PD-MCI by MDS Task Force	$\uparrow$ neurofilament light chain protein and heart fatty acid-binding protein associated with progression to PDD
<b>PLASMA/SERUM</b>					
<b>PDD / PDND</b>					
Bialecka et al., 2012 <sup>48</sup>	Homocysteine (P)	Cardiovascular risk	PDND (n=153) PDD (n=64) C (n=254)	MMSE, attention and working memory, executive, memory, language / PDD by MDS Task Force	PDD vs. PDND: $\uparrow$
Song et al., 2013 <sup>49</sup>	Homocysteine (P)	Cardiovascular risk	PDND (n=33) PDD (n=28) C (n=48)	MMSE, CDR / PDD by DSM-IVR	PDD vs. PDND: $\uparrow$
Chen-Plotkin et al., 2011 <sup>64</sup>	Epidermal Growth Factor (P)	Neurotrophic factors	PDND (n=70) <i>Longitudinal (21 months)</i>	DRS-2 / PDD if $\leq 5$	Positive correlation with cognitive status at baseline and $\downarrow$ associated with greater risk of cognitive decline at follow-up

Song et al., 2013 <sup>56</sup>	High-sensitivity C-reactive protein (S)	Inflammation/immune response	PDND (n=72) PDD (n=45) C (n=84)	MMSE, CDR / PDD by DSM-IV-R	No differences
Peterson et al., 2013 <sup>54</sup>	Vitamin D (P)	Neurotrophic factors	PDND (n=225) PDD (n=61)	MMSE, MOCA, DRS, attention and working memory, executive, memory, visuospatial / PDD by DSM-IV	No differences. PDND+PDD: positive correlation with memory and semantic fluency
González-Aramburu et al., 2014 <sup>55</sup>	Uric acid (S)	Oxidative stress	PDND (n=271) PDD (n=72)	MMSE, attention and working memory, executive, memory, visuospatial / PDD by MDS Task Force	No differences
<b>PD-MCI/ PDCN/PDD</b>					
Mielke et al., 2013 <sup>73</sup>	Ceramide and mono-hexosylceramide (P)	Lipid metabolism	PDCN (n=26) PD-MCI (n=14) PDD (n=12) C (n=5)	MMSE, attention and working memory, executive / PD-MCI and PDD by MDS Task Force	PDD+PD-MCI vs. PDCN: ↑ ceramide C16:0, C18:0, C20:0, C22:0, and C24:0 and mono-hexosylceramide C16:0, C20:0, and C24:0 species
Rodríguez-Oroz et al., 2014 <sup>51</sup>	Homocysteine (P)	Cardiovascular risk	PDCN (n=37) PD-MCI (n=22) PDD (n=30) C (n=30)	MMSE, attention and working memory, executive, memory, language / MCI by Petersen et al., 1999; PDD by DSM-IV	No differences
Li et al., 2015 <sup>70</sup>	Phospholipids (P)	Lipid metabolism	PDCN (n=44) PD-MCI (n=41) C (n=75)	MOCA / PD-MCI if < 26	PD-MCI vs. PDND and C: ↑
<b>PDND or PD</b>					
O'Suilleabhain et al., 2004 <sup>50</sup>	Homocysteine (P)	Cardiovascular risk	PDND (n=97)	MMSE, attention and working memory, executive, memory, language, visuospatial	↑ associated with worse performance in visuospatial and executive functions
Hassin-Baer et al., 2006 <sup>52</sup>	Homocysteine (P)	Cardiovascular risk	PD (n=72)	MMSE, FAB, attention and working memory, executive, memory, language, visuospatial	No association with cognitive performance
Camicioli et al.,	Homocysteine (P)	Cardiovascular risk	PDND (n=51)	MMSE, DRS, executive, visuospatial	No association with cognitive performance

2009 <sup>53</sup>			C (n=50)		
Annamaki et al., 2008 <sup>57*</sup>	Uric acid (P)	Oxidative stress	PD (n=40)	MMSE, attention and working memory, executive, memory, language, visuospatial	Positive correlation with lower performance in several cognitive tests
Moccia et al., 2014 <sup>58</sup>	Uric acid (S)	Oxidative stress	PD (n=80)	MMSE, attention and working memory, memory	↓ associated with impairment of attention/memory
Moccia et al., 2014 <sup>59</sup>	Uric acid (S)	Oxidative stress	PD (n=69) <i>Longitudinal (2 years)</i>	MMSE, attention and working memory, memory	↓ associated with worsening in attention/memory
Connolly et al., 2008 <sup>72**</sup>	8,12-isoprostaneF <sub>2α</sub> -VI (P)	Lipid metabolism	PD (n=36) C (n=30)	MMSE, executive, memory	No association with cognitive performance
Sclazo et al., 2010 <sup>61</sup>	IL-6 (S)	Inflammation/immune response	PDND (n=44)	MMSE	Negative correlation with MMSE
Menza et al., 2010 <sup>60</sup>	IL-6, TNF- α (P)	Inflammation/immune response	PDND (n=52)	MMSE, attention and working memory, executive, memory, language	Both markers: negative correlation with global cognition
Hassin-Baer et al., 2011 <sup>52</sup>	CRP (P)	Inflammation/immune response	PD (n=73)	MMSE, FAB, attention and working memory, executive, memory, language, visuospatial	No association with cognitive performance
Pellecchia et al., 2013 <sup>63</sup>	Epidermal Growth Factor (S)	Neurotrophic factors	PD (n=65) <i>Longitudinal (2 years)</i>	MMSE, attention and working memory, executive, memory, visuospatial	Positive correlation with performance in semantic fluency and color naming task of Stroop at follow up
Pellecchia et al., 2014 <sup>65</sup>	Insulin-like growth factor-1 (S)	Neurotrophic factors	PD (n=65) <i>Longitudinal (2 years)</i>	MMSE, attention and working memory, executive, memory, visuospatial	↓ associated with faster decline in memory and executive function
Ma et al., 2015 <sup>66</sup>	Insulin-like growth factor-1 (P)	Neurotrophic factors	PD (n=100) C (n=76)	MMSE	Positive correlation with MMSE score

**Abbreviations. Biomarkers:** (P), plasma; (S), serum; CRP, C reactive protein; IL-1 $\beta$ , Interleukin-1 $\beta$ ; IL-6, Interleukin-6; TNF- $\alpha$ , Tumor necrosis factor alpha; IFN- $\gamma$ , Interferon gamma; PGE<sub>2</sub>, Prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub>; IP10, Interferon gamma-induced protein-10; MIP1 $\beta$ , Macrophage inflammatory protein-1; MCP1, Monocyte chemotactic protein-1; Hcy, Homocystein. **Subjects:** PDD, Parkinson's disease with dementia; PD-MCI, Parkinson's disease with mild cognitive impairment; PDND, Parkinson's disease non-demented; PDCN, Parkinson's disease cognitively normal; C, control. **Cognitive assessment:** MMSE, Mini Mental State Examination; MOCA, Montreal Cognitive Assessment; MDS, Movement Disorders Society; FAB, Frontal Assessment Battery; DSM, Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders

\*Low urine uric acid levels associated with worse performance on information, similarities, BD, picture completion, DS-B, rule shift cards, 10-CRT, statement verification, cognitive processing vigilance.

\*\* Urine levels not associated with cognitive performance



## **OTHER BIOLOGICAL FLUIDS: PLASMA/SERUM AND URINE**

Apart from CSF, other biological fluids represent an attractive source of biomarkers due to the ease of obtaining samples (Supplementary table 1). Regarding plasmatic homocysteine, while some studies associated higher levels with dementia and worse cognitive outcome,<sup>48-50</sup> others failed to find any relationship with PD-MCI, dementia or neuropsychological performance.<sup>51-53</sup>

Plasma or serum levels of proteins involved in inflammation (CRP), oxidative stress (UA) or neuroprotection (vitamin D, transthyretin) were no different in PDD and PDND patients.<sup>30, 54-56</sup> However, in PDND patients, low UA concentrations was associated with a worse outcome in global cognition,<sup>57, 58</sup> attention, and memory;<sup>59</sup> high vitamin D levels with better semantic fluency and memory;<sup>54</sup> and high concentrations of IL-6,<sup>60, 61</sup> TNF- $\alpha$ ,<sup>60</sup> and IFN  $\gamma$ -induced protein 10<sup>62</sup> with lower cognitive scores. Importantly, low levels of epidermal growth factor (EGF)<sup>63, 64</sup> and insulin-like growth factor (ILGF)<sup>65</sup> have certain predictive value for the development of dementia and cognitive decline, and ILGF positively correlates with global cognition<sup>66</sup> and executive function.<sup>65</sup> Interestingly, after cognitive rehabilitation plasma BDNF levels increased in PD-MCI patients.<sup>67</sup>

In addition to proteins, lipids have also been evaluated as abnormal lipid peroxidation may play a role in the pathogenesis of PD and other neurodegenerative diseases.<sup>68, 69</sup> Whereas plasma levels of phospholipids were higher in PD-MCI than in PDCN patients,<sup>70</sup> prostaglandin isomers derived from free radical peroxidation of polyunsaturated fatty acids<sup>71</sup> (i.e. F2-isoprostanes) did not differ between PDD and PDND patients, nor were they associated with the severity of cognitive impairment.<sup>72</sup> Lipids involved in the metabolism of glucosylceramide (a GBA substrate) have also been investigated, and interestingly, in the absence of mutations in GBA the levels of some ceramide species were higher in PD-MCI or PDD than in PDCN patients.<sup>73</sup>

Regarding urine, only UA has been studied to date and in keeping with findings in plasma, low UA levels are associated with poor neuropsychological performance.<sup>57</sup>

In summary, the fact that cognitive outcomes are associated with neurotrophic factors and markers of inflammation, and that a few longitudinal studies in small cohorts with early PD show that EGF,<sup>63, 64</sup> ILGF<sup>65</sup> and UA<sup>59</sup> may predict cognitive decline, suggest that these proteins could be useful as biomarkers of dementia in PD. The differences in some lipids between groups of PD patients with distinct cognitive states may also be of potential value.<sup>70, 73</sup> These findings are in keeping with recent data linking neurodegeneration and aging with disturbances in lipid metabolism<sup>74, 75</sup> and neuroinflammation.<sup>76</sup>

## **GENETIC BACKGROUND**

Genes are part of our inborn biological fingerprint and although they can be useful to predict outcome (i.e. risk of dementia) they are not useful to track disease course (i.e. cognitive evolution in a patient with PD). Thus, genetic factors are better considered as “predictive markers” rather than true biomarkers. Genes related to the aggregated proteins encountered in the brain of PDD patients<sup>9-13</sup> (Table 2) have been extensively pursued. The  $\epsilon 4$  allele of apolipoprotein E gene (*APOE*) is associated with increased amyloid plaque load<sup>77</sup> and it was found to be more prevalent in PDD than in PDND patients,<sup>78-81</sup> as well as being associated with lower performance in memory,<sup>82, 83</sup> working memory, executive function and semantic fluency<sup>83</sup> in PDND. However, such results were not evident elsewhere,<sup>31, 84-90</sup> this discrepancy probably being due to the significant methodological variability among the studies (Table 2). Most of these cross-sectional studies have been pooled in one meta-analysis,<sup>91</sup> suggesting an over-representation of *APOE*  $\epsilon 4$  carriers

amongst PDD patients. In addition, although not uniformly,<sup>22, 89, 91</sup> longitudinal studies show that *APOE*  $\epsilon 4$ <sup>92-95</sup> and *APOE*  $\epsilon 2$ <sup>94, 95</sup> are associated with more rapid cognitive decline and a risk of PDD. In relation to the tau gene (*MAPT*), despite the absence of uniform data,<sup>83, 88, 92</sup> the H1 haplotype in PD patients was found to be associated with dementia<sup>96</sup> and with a higher risk of progression to dementia<sup>97</sup> and cognitive decline<sup>98</sup> in the most extensive cross-sectional<sup>96</sup> and longitudinal studies.<sup>97, 98</sup> In addition, in PDND patients the H1/H1 genotype was associated with poor visual and memory outcomes,<sup>92, 99</sup> although this finding was not replicated in a larger study.<sup>83</sup> Duplications, triplications<sup>100, 101</sup> and some mutations of the *SNCA* gene that encodes the  $\alpha$ -synuclein protein<sup>102, 103</sup> are associated with early onset dementia, although patients with idiopathic PDD and PDND did not show different polymorphisms of this gene.<sup>104</sup> Interestingly, a recent multicenter study in a large cohort of PD patients, show that the *APOE*  $\epsilon 4$  allele but not the *MAPT* and *SNCA* genes was associated with lower cognitive performance.<sup>83</sup>

**Table 2.** Summary of genetic studies assessing *APOE*, *MAPT* and *GBA* as potential biomarkers of PD-MCI and PDD.

AUTHOR	PATIENTS			Cont rols	COGNITIVE EVALUATION / DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA	MAIN RESULTS / FINDINGS
	PDND	PDD	PD- MCI			
<b><i>APOE</i> CROSS-SECTIONAL</b>						
Koller et al., 1995 <sup>84</sup>	61	52			DRS / PDD by NINCDS	
Parsian et al., 2002 <sup>85</sup>	250	34		96	MMSE / PDD by McKhann et al., 1984	
Camicioli et al., 2005 <sup>86</sup>	19	28			MMSE / PDD by DSM-IV	
Jasinska-Myga et al., 2007 <sup>87</sup>	100	98			MMSE, attention and working memory, executive, memory, language, visuospatial / PDD by ICD-10 and DSM-IV	No differences
Ezquerria et al., 2008 <sup>88</sup>	138	86		91	NA / PDD by MDS Task Force	
Beyer et al., 2013 <sup>31</sup>	73*		18		MMSE, executive, memory, visuospatial / PD-MCI if cognitive performance < 1.5 SDs below predicted level	
Feldman et al., 2006 <sup>79</sup>	49	38			NA / DSM-IV	<i>APOE</i> ε4 associated with PDD
Tröster et al., 2006 <sup>90</sup>	62			146	DRS, attention and working memory, executive, memory, language	Absence of <i>APOE</i> ε4 associated with working memory impairment
Pankratz et al., 2006 <sup>80</sup>	274	50			PDD by MMSE with education-specific cutoff	<i>APOE</i> ε4 associated with PDD
Papapetropoulos et al., 2007 <sup>81</sup>	33	39			PDD by American Psychiatric Association 1987,1994 or MMSE < 24	<i>APOE</i> ε4 associated with PDD
Blazquez et al., 2006 <sup>78</sup>	276	212			MMSE / PDD if < 24	<i>APOE</i> ε4 associated with cognitive impairment in familial PD
Mata et al., 2014 <sup>83</sup>	1079**				MOCA, attention and working memory, executive, memory, language, visuospatial	<i>APOE</i> ε4 associated with ↓ memory, executive function, attention and language.
<b><i>APOE</i> LONGITUDINAL</b>						
Harhangi et al., 2000 <sup>95</sup>	79	25		4673	PDD by DSM-III-R	<i>APOE</i> ε2 and <i>APOE</i> ε4 ↑ risk of PDD
De Lau et al., 2005 <sup>94</sup>	139				MMSE / PDD by DSM-III-R	<i>APOE</i> ε2 and <i>APOE</i> ε4 ↑ risk of PDD
Kurz et al., 2009 <sup>89</sup>	95			73	MMSE / PDD by DSM-IV	<i>APOE</i> not associated with cognitive performance at baseline or annual decline
Williams-Gray et al., 2009 <sup>91</sup>	101				MMSE, executive, memory, language / PDD by MMSE ≤ 24 and DSM-IV	No differences
Siderowf et al., 2010 <sup>22</sup>	45				DRS-2 / PDD if < 124	<i>APOE</i> ε4 not associated with cognitive decline

Morley et al., 2012 <sup>92</sup>	212			DRS-2	<i>APOE</i> ε4 associated with cognitive decline
<b><i>MAPT</i> CROSS-SECTIONAL</b>					
Ezquerria et al., 2008 <sup>88</sup>	138	86	91	PDD by MDS Task Force	No differences
Mata et al., 2014 <sup>83</sup>	1079**			MOCA, attention and working memory, executive, memory, language, visuospatial	No association with cognitive performance
Setó-Salvia et al., 2011 <sup>96</sup>	2154	48	374	DRS / PDD by DSM IV-R	PDD vs. C: ↑ frequency of H1. rs1467967-A allele and haplotype H2a (del-In9 variant) ↓ in PDD
<b><i>MAPT</i> LONGITUDINAL</b>					
Goris et al., 2007 <sup>98</sup>	109**			MMSE	H1/H1 ↑ cognitive decline
Williams-Gray et al., 2009 <sup>97</sup>	126			MMSE, executive, memory, language / PDD by MMSE ≤ 24 and DSM-IV	H1/H1 predictor of cognitive decline over 5.2 years
Morley et al., 2012 <sup>92</sup>	212**			DRS-2, attention, memory, initiation-perseveration, construction, and conceptualization	H1/H1 associated with ↓ memory at baseline, but not with changes over time
<b><i>GBA</i> CROSS-SECTIONAL</b>					
Alcalay et al. 2010 <sup>107</sup>	699			MMSE, Self-report of cognitive impairment	Association with self-reported cognitive impairment
Setó-Salvia et al., 2011 <sup>96</sup>	225*		186	Clinical Dementia Rating Scale / PDD by DSM IV-R	Association with PDD
Alcalay et al., 2012 <sup>106</sup>	72*			MMSE, CDR, executive, memory, visuospatial	Association with ↓ memory and visuospatial function
<b><i>GBA</i> LONGITUDINAL</b>					
Winder-Rhodes et al., 2013 <sup>109</sup>	121			MMSE / PDD by DSM IV	Associated with progression to PDD
Brockmann et al., 2015 <sup>108</sup>	39			MOCA	Associated with ↑ cognitive decline

**Abbreviations.** NA, Not Available. **Genes:** *APOE*, Apolipoprotein E; *MAPT*, Microtubule Associated Protein Tau; *GBA*, Glucocerebrosidase. **Subjects:** PDND, Parkinson's disease non-demented; PDD, Parkinson's disease dementia; PD-MCI, Parkinson's disease mild cognitive impairment; PDCN, Parkinson's disease cognitively normal; C, control. **Cognitive assessment:** DRS, Mattis Dementia Rating Scale; DRS-2, Mattis Dementia Rating Scale (version 2); NINCDS, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke; MMSE, Mini Mental State Examination; MOCA, Montreal Cognitive Assessment; DSM-III-R, Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Revised Third Edition; DSM-IV, Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition; ICD-10, International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems 10th Revision; MDS, Movement Disorders Society.

\* PD cognitively normal

\*\* PD (the cognitive status is not specified)

Recently, a higher prevalence of dementia,<sup>105, 106</sup> MCI,<sup>106</sup> and poor outcomes in global cognition,<sup>107</sup> memory and visuospatial function<sup>106</sup> was observed in PD patients carrying *GBA* mutations. Moreover, *GBA* mutations are associated with greater cognitive decline<sup>108</sup> and development of PDD<sup>109</sup> in longitudinal studies, and with higher high LB burden.<sup>110</sup> It has been postulated that the poorer lysosomal activity linked to *GBA* mutations could reduce the turnover of  $\alpha$ -synuclein through chaperone mediated autophagy, leading to LB formation.<sup>110</sup>

Genes related to defective neurotransmission relevant to cognition in PD have also been studied. In relation to dopamine metabolism, the Val158Met polymorphism of the catechol-o-methyl transferase (*COMT*) gene is associated with poor performance in executive function or attention<sup>92, 111-115</sup> but apparently, not with dementia.<sup>97</sup> No studies have assessed genes related to acetylcholine metabolism in PDD or PD-MCI patients, and no association between polymorphisms in the *CHRNA4* gene (the nicotinic receptor subunit alpha-4) and cognition have been encountered in PDCN patients.<sup>116</sup> Similarly, an association between genes related to the metabolism of homocysteine and cognition in PD has not been observed.<sup>48, 51</sup> Conversely, polymorphisms in the IL-17A<sup>117</sup> and BDNF genes<sup>118 119</sup> have been associated with poorer global cognition<sup>119</sup> and delayed recall.<sup>118</sup>

In summary, although there are contradictory results regarding the *APOE*  $\epsilon$ 4 allele and the H1 haplotype of the *MAPT* gene, methodological issues (i.e. differences in the size of the cohorts studied, the cognitive assessment and diagnostic accuracy for dementia and MCI, disease duration, the age of the patients, etc.) impair making comparisons between them. Meta-analysis of cross-sectional studies<sup>91</sup> and longitudinal studies with larger cohorts<sup>92, 94, 95, 97</sup> suggest that these genetic variants can be considered risk factors for dementia in PD. More recently, *GBA* mutations emerged as the strongest genetic predictive marker of

dementia.<sup>105, 106, 108, 109</sup> These genetic variations may account for, or have a great impact on, the subtype of PD-MCI and the risk of dementia.

## **MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI)**

### **Gray matter changes**

Several cross-sectional studies have demonstrated higher brain atrophy in PDD and PD-MCI patients (more extensive in PDD) than in control subjects, PDCN or PDND,<sup>31, 120-153</sup> particularly in the parietal, occipital, temporal and frontal lobes, yet also in the hippocampus, amygdala, caudate, putamen, thalamus and substantia innominata (Figure 1). As expected, PDD patients had less gray matter (GM) volume than PD-MCI patients in several temporal and prefrontal areas,<sup>137</sup> including the amygdala,<sup>123</sup> and they had reduced cortical thickness in the anterior cingulate, entorhinal and orbitofrontal cortices, as well as in the parahippocampus, temporal pole, precuneus, and fusiform and lingual areas.<sup>121</sup> Interestingly, several studies report correlations between different areas of GM loss and cognitive function,<sup>31, 121, 123, 127, 131, 134, 142, 146, 150, 154-162</sup> although in terms of biomarkers of dementia and MCI, longitudinal studies are much more valuable. Thus, reduced cortical thickness in the right precentral and superior frontal gyri, as well as in the anterior cingulate cortex,<sup>21</sup> and less GM volume in the prefrontal areas, insular cortex and caudate nucleus,<sup>163</sup> along with hippocampal atrophy, were observed in PD patients who developed dementia during follow-up.<sup>164</sup> Interestingly, hippocampal volume was also a major factor predicting the development of MCI in PD patients,<sup>164</sup> and a sophisticated analysis using Bayesian network classifiers showed that PDD, PD-MCI and PDND patients were classified on this basis with high sensitivity and specificity.<sup>165</sup> In this study, reduced GM in the left hippocampus and right entorhinal cortex, and enlargement of the lateral ventricles identified PDD patients, and brainstem and left hippocampus atrophy was seen in PD-MCI patients.<sup>165</sup>

In summary (Figure 1), although there are many studies in this field, the most valuable are those with larger cohorts<sup>31, 122, 131, 138, 142, 152, 153, 158</sup> and more advanced analytic approaches<sup>121, 125, 148, 152, 157, 165</sup>, especially the longitudinal studies,<sup>21, 152, 163, 164</sup> Accordingly, reduced cortical volume or thickness in several areas, and especially in the hippocampus,<sup>164</sup> appears to be associated with progression to dementia and MCI. This is a promising avenue to be followed, whereby well-designed prospective studies using modern analytical models might help to validate these findings or identify new patterns that could serve as potential biomarkers.

### **White matter microstructure: Diffusion Tensor Imaging**

Reduced fractional anisotropy (FA) or increased mean diffusivity (MD) in diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) studies can indicate alterations in the microstructure of WM tracts. Both approaches show that dementia and MCI in PD are associated with extensive areas of modified WM microstructure (Figure 1).<sup>153, 166-172</sup> Reduced FA is widespread in PDD compared with PDND patients or controls, compromising the main tracts (the superior and inferior longitudinal, inferior fronto-occipital and uncinate fasciculi, the cingulum, the anterior limb of the internal capsule, and the hippocampus).<sup>153, 166-170</sup> In PD-MCI patients, the superior longitudinal, inferior fronto-occipital and uncinate fasciculi, as well as the cingulum, corpus callosum and corona radiata had a lower FA than in PDCN or control subjects.<sup>153, 166, 169, 171</sup> Notably, while PDD patients had reduced GM volume and FA, PD-MCI subjects only showed FA abnormalities in the main WM tracts,<sup>153</sup> suggesting that tract damage may precede GM atrophy. Regarding MD, results are analogous to those found in FA for both PD-MCI and PDD patients.<sup>166, 168, 172</sup> On the other hand, both FA



and MD values have been correlated with cognitive outcomes,<sup>153, 161, 167-170, 172-175</sup> possibly indicating a role in the detection of subtypes of cognitive failure associated with PD. Overall, the corpus callosum,<sup>153, 171</sup> corona radiata,<sup>166, 171</sup> and the inferior and superior longitudinal fasciculi are the areas most consistently altered in PDD and PD-MCI patients.<sup>153, 166, 171</sup> The fact that in absence of GM changes, PD-MCI patients exhibited alterations in the main WM tracts<sup>153</sup> suggests that DTI studies might help in the early diagnosis of cognitive decline. Longitudinal studies are not currently available and they will be needed to determine whether any of these changes may be considered as true biomarkers of MCI or dementia in PD.

### **Functional MRI: Cerebral blood flow**

Functional MRI (fMRI) in resting state or during the execution of tasks indirectly measures neural activity and is used to study the regional activation of the brain and the association or dependency between two or more anatomic locations, termed functional connectivity. During the execution of working memory or executive function tasks, PD-MCI patients more weakly recruit the anterior cingulate cortex, caudate, medial and dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (DLPFC), and left precentral gyrus than PDCN patients.<sup>176-178</sup> However, similar findings were observed in PDCN patients when compared with controls<sup>179</sup> suggesting that these changes are associated with executive dysfunction in PD.<sup>180, 181</sup> Interestingly, genetic variants in PDND patients are associated with reduced recruitment of specific brain areas when executing certain tasks: the *MAPT* H1 haplotype in parietal<sup>115</sup> and medial temporal<sup>99</sup> regions when performing visuospatial and memory tests;<sup>99</sup> *APOE*  $\epsilon$ 4 allele in the temporo-parietal network in relation to memory encoding;<sup>115</sup> and *COMT* met/met homozygosity of the Val158Met polymorphism in the prefrontal cortices, frontoparietal network and caudate nuclei when executing frontal tasks.<sup>111, 113, 115</sup>

In the resting state, reduced inter-regional correlations have been encountered in PDD (caudate nucleus-posterior cingulate cortex/precuneus<sup>182</sup> and inferior occipital-right parahippocampal gyri<sup>172, 183</sup>) and in PD-MCI (long range connections)<sup>184, 185</sup> patients. In addition, reduced connectivity in the frontoparietal network is associated with poor cognitive outcome in PD-MCI,<sup>186</sup> and progressive loss of functional connectivity in posterior parts of the brain was associated with cognitive decline in the only longitudinal study available.<sup>187</sup> One interesting approach is to study the default network that reflects the predominant activity at rest, which is dampened when switching to a cognitive task. In PDD patients, this network has weaker connectivity in the right inferior frontal gyrus<sup>188</sup> and is less intensely deactivated than in controls when confronted with a complex visual task.<sup>183</sup>

Considering the data available (Figure 1), it can be speculated that there are two main functional networks in the resting state: one more anterior one that seems to be related to executive dysfunction; and another more posterior one that might herald the evolution to dementia.<sup>187</sup> Activation studies indicate that fMRI might be helpful in the diagnosis of PD-MCI subtypes, which may also complement studies of genetic predictive markers in patients.

### **Proton magnetic resonance spectroscopy: metabolite spectra**

Proton magnetic resonance spectroscopy (PMRS) allows certain metabolites to be quantified *in vivo*, reflecting the integrity of different elements in the brain, such as N-acetyl aspartate (NAA, neurons), choline compounds (Cho, cell membranes) and creatine (Cr, energy metabolism).<sup>189</sup> PDD patients have less NAA<sup>190</sup> and PD-MCI patients a lower NAA/Cr ratio<sup>191</sup> than PDND patients in the occipital lobe, which correlates with poorer

visuospatial and working memory function.<sup>190</sup> In addition, PDD<sup>191</sup> and PD-MCI<sup>189</sup> patients had lower respective NAA/Cr and Cho/Cr ratios in the cingulate cortex than controls. Moreover, levels of NAA were reduced in the DLPFC of PD-MCI patients and in the hippocampus of PDD patients,<sup>192</sup> and they were positively correlated with frontal tasks and language function,<sup>192</sup> respectively. A correlation between the NAA/Cr ratio in the anterior cingulate cortex with short-term memory,<sup>193</sup> and with executive function and perception,<sup>194</sup> has also been observed. Finally, the inorganic phosphate/ATP ratio, a measure of oxidative metabolism, was negatively correlated with global cognition and language in PDND patients.<sup>195</sup> Longitudinal studies are needed to decipher whether the biochemical alterations described might predict conversion to dementia or identify subtypes of PD-MCI.

In summary, despite the number of studies undertaken with MRI, no reliable biomarker of dementia has been identified. From the information provided by the different MRI modalities in the few longitudinal studies available, the most consistent conclusion points to the fact that a lower hippocampal volume and dysfunction of the posterior-hippocampal network, witnessed either by fMRI or spectroscopy, might signal the eventual development of dementia. Nevertheless, their value at the individual level has to be further explored.

## **PET AND SPECT IMAGING**

### **Dopaminergic denervation**

Several studies have identified dopaminergic deficits in the striatum, anterior cingulate and midbrain in PDD patients, and in the striatum and the insula of PD-MCI patients compared with PDCN patients.<sup>176, 196-199</sup> However, in all types of patients (PDCN, PD-

MCI and PDD) these deficits are associated with poor executive function, especially those in the striatum,<sup>176, 200-206</sup> and less consistently with verbal and visual memory<sup>126</sup> or global cognition.<sup>196</sup> In addition, several studies failed to find an association between dopamine depletion and cognitive impairment.<sup>207-209</sup> Therefore, the assessment of the dopaminergic system with these imaging techniques could serve as a biomarker of executive PD-MCI, an important entity with implications for functional performance. However, this does not seem to be sufficiently reliable to serve as a biomarker of dementia or MCI.

### **Cholinergic denervation**

Pathological studies<sup>210</sup> and pharmacological trials with acetylcholinesterase inhibitors<sup>211</sup> indicate that the cholinergic dysfunction is relevant in dementia in PD. Studies using different radiotracers (Supplementary Table 2), show that the cholinergic activity in PDD patients was weaker in the whole cortex,<sup>212-214</sup> and in the occipital,<sup>213</sup> precentral, parietal, temporal and posterior cingulate cortex<sup>215</sup> than in PDND and healthy subjects.<sup>216, 217</sup> Compared with controls, cholinergic deficits were evident in the midbrain, pons and cerebellum in one study of PD-MCI patients<sup>218</sup> but not in another that included more patients.<sup>198</sup> In addition, lower cortical cholinergic activity has been associated with worse global cognition<sup>219, 220</sup> and language,<sup>221</sup> and with working memory impairment in PDD and PDND patients.<sup>217</sup>

PET studies indicate that assessing the cholinergic state might be useful as a biomarker of dementia in PD. Despite the evidence available, the current accessibility of the radiotracers precludes more extensive research and the clinical use of this technique.

**Supplementary table 2.** Summary of PiB PET and acetylcholine-related PET and SPECT studies assessing PD-MCI or PDD and those reporting correlations with any cognitive measure in PD, PDND or PDCN.

	<b>AUTHOR AND YEAR</b>	<b>PATIENTS</b>	<b>COGNITIVE EVALUATION / DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA</b>	<b>MAIN RESULTS</b>
[ <sup>11</sup> C]-PiB PET <i>Amyloid load</i>	Maetzler et al., 2008 <sup>225</sup>	PDD (n=10) C (n=6)	MMSE / PDD by DSM-IV	2/10 PDD ↑ uptake in cortical areas
	Edison et al., 2008 <sup>222</sup>	PDND (n=10) PDD (n=12) C (n=41)	MMSE / PDD by MDS Task Force	2/12 PDD ↑ uptake
	Maetzler et al., 2009 <sup>20</sup>	PDND (n=14) PDD (n=12)	MMSE / PDD by DSM-IV	4/12 PDD ↑ uptake in the frontal, posterior cingulate, cuneus/precuneus, temporo-parietooccipital cortices and striatum
	Burack et al., 2010 <sup>226</sup>	PDD (n=3)	MMSE, CDR / PDD by MDS Task Force	2/3 autopsy confirmed PDD ↑ uptake in orbitofrontal, prefrontal cortex, precuneus and temporal lobes
	Foster et al., 2010 <sup>229</sup>	PDCN (n=8) PD-MCI (n=9) PDD (n=15) C (n=9)	CDR, attention and working memory, executive, memory, language, visuospatial / PDD by MDS Task Force; PD-MCI if CDR=0.5	No differences
	Jokinen et al., 2010 <sup>253</sup>	PDND (n=8) PDD (n=11)	MMSE, attention and working memory, executive, memory / PDD by MDS Task Force	3/11 PDD and 2/24 C ↑ uptake in cortical areas
	Gomperts et al., 2012 <sup>228</sup>	PDCN (n=29) PD-MCI (n=14) PDD (n=12) C (n=85)	MMSE, CDR, attention and working memory, executive, memory, language, visuospatial / PDD by MDS Task Force; PD-MCI if one abnormal aggregate cognitive domain score -1.5 SD	No differences
	Petrou et al., 2012 <sup>224</sup>	PDNC (n=5) PD-MCI (n=30) PDD (n=5)	MOCA, attention and working memory, executive, memory, visuospatial / PD-MCI based on domain Z-scores (not specified)	4/5 PDD and 2/30 PD-MCI ↑ cortical uptake. Negative correlation between cortical binding and global cognition
	Gomperts et al., 2013 <sup>230</sup>	PDNC (n=35) PD-MCI (n=11) <i>Longitudinal (2.5±1.4 years follow-up)</i>	MMSE, attention and working memory, executive, memory, language, visuospatial / PD-MCI by Winblad et al., 2004	PD-MCI vs. PDCN: At baseline no differences Longitudinal course: Subjects progressing to a more severe cognitive diagnosis (n=14) ↑ baseline uptake
	Campbell et al., 2013 <sup>227</sup>	PDD (n=53) C (n=67)	MMSE, CDR / PDD by MDS Task Force	PDD vs. C: No differences
Shimada et	PDD (n=7)	MMSE, executive / PDD	29% of PDD ↑ uptake. No correlations between	

	al., 2013 <sup>223</sup>	C (n=17)	by DSM-IV	uptake and neuropsychological tests
	Lucero et al., 2015 <sup>231</sup>	PDND (n=130) PDD (n=15)	MMSE, CDR / PDD defined by CDR	Uptake correlated with cognition in patients with <16 years of education
<b>[<sup>11</sup>C]-PMP PET</b> <i>Acetylcholinesterase activity</i>	Bohnen et al., 2003 <sup>216</sup>	PDND (n=11) PDD (n=14)	MMSE / PDD by DSM-IV	AChE activity ↓ in PDD (-20%) and in PDND (-12.9%) vs. controls
	Bohnen et al., 2006 <sup>217</sup>	PDND (n=13) PDD (n=11) C (n=14)	MMSE / PDD by DSM-IV	PDD vs. C: ↓ cortical AChE activity PDD+PDND: Cortical AChE activity correlated with attention.
	Shimada et al., 2009 <sup>213</sup>	PDND (n=18) PDD (n=10) C (n=26)	MMSE / PDD by DSM-IV	PDD vs. PDND ↓ AChE activity in the inferior temporal, supramarginal, and posterior cingulate gyri.
	Bohnen et al., 2012 <sup>219</sup>	PD (n=101) C (n=29)	MMSE, attention and working memory, executive, memory, visuospatial / PDD by DSM-IV	↓ cortical AChE activity, associated with ↓ in verbal learning, executive function, and attention
	Bohnen et al., 2015 <sup>220</sup>	PDND (n=143)	MMSE, attention and working memory, executive, memory, visuospatial / Not reported	↓ cortical AChE activity in PDND with worse cognitive outcome
<b>2-[<sup>18</sup>F]FA-85380 PET</b> <i>α4β2* nicotinic acetylcholine receptors</i>	Meyer et al., 2009 <sup>218</sup>	PDCN (n=7) PD-MCI (n=8) C (n=9)	MMSE, DemTecscales, attention and working memory, executive, memory, visuospatial / PD-MCI defined if DemTecscales=8-13	PD-MCI vs. PDCN: ↓ midbrain, pons and cerebellum PD-MCI vs. C: ↓ midbrain, pons, left parietal cortex, cerebellum
<b>[<sup>11</sup>C]-MP4A PET</b> <i>Acetylcholinesterase activity</i>	Hilker et al., 2005 <sup>215</sup>	PDND (n=17) PDD (n=10)	MMSE, attention and working memory, executive, memory, language, visuospatial / PDD by DSM-IV	PDD vs. PDND: ↓ left inferior parietal lobe, left precentral gyrus and right posterior cingulate gyrus
	Klein et al., 2010 <sup>212</sup>	PDND (n=8) PDD (n=9) C (n=9)		
<b>[<sup>123</sup>I]IBVM SPECT</b> <i>Presynaptic cholinergic terminal density</i>	Kuhl et al. 1996 <sup>214</sup>	PDND (n=9) PDD (n=6) C (n=36)	CDR / PDD by CDR 0.5 or clinical data	PDD vs. PDND: ↓ extensive cortical uptake
<b>5-I-A-85380 SPECT</b> <i>α4β2* nicotinic acetylcholine receptors</i>	Lorenz et al., 2014 <sup>221</sup>	PD (n=25)	Language	Correlation between language performance and uptake in right superior parietal lobule, left thalamus, posterior subcortical region

**Abbreviations. PET/SPECT technique:** PiB, Pittsburgh compound B; PMP, Methyl-piperidin-4-yl propionate; FA-85380, 3-((S)-2-azetidylmethoxy)pyridine; MP4A, Methylpiperidin-4-yl acetate; IBVM, Iodobenzovesamicol; A-85380, 5-iodo-3-[2(S)-azetidylmethoxy]pyridine. **Subjects:** PDND, Parkinson's disease non-demented; PDD, Parkinson's disease dementia; PD-MCI,

Parkinson's disease mild cognitive impairment; PDCN, Parkinson's disease cognitively normal; C, control. **Cognitive assessment:** CDR, Clinical Dementia Rating of Hughes et al., 1982; MMSE, Mini Mental State Examination; MOCA, Montreal Cognitive Assessment; DSM-IV, Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition; MDS, Movement Disorders Society.

## **Imaging amyloid**

Fibrils of A $\beta$  can be assessed *in vivo* by [ $^{11}$ C]-Pittsburgh compound B (PiB) PET imaging. From the few such studies undertaken in PD patients (Supplementary Table 2), 15-80 % of PDD cases<sup>20, 222-226</sup> and only 2 out of 30 PD-MCI patients had elevated cortical PiB binding.<sup>224</sup> Although no differences were evident between PDD and controls<sup>227-229</sup> or between PD-MCI and PDCN patients in several studies,<sup>228, 229</sup> higher PiB retention in PD-MCI patients predicted a greater risk of cognitive worsening.<sup>230</sup> In addition, a robust correlation between global cognition and PiB binding was observed in PDCN, PD-MCI and PDD patients.<sup>224, 231</sup> Therefore, while it can be argued that amyloid load might contribute to the development of cognitive impairment in PD,<sup>10, 14, 232</sup> the *in vivo* results of PiB-PET studies are rather variable,<sup>233</sup> with low sensitivity and specificity in the diagnosis of dementia and MCI in PD patients. Nonetheless, the paucity of studies and the heterogeneity in the cognitive deficits of PDD and PD-MCI patients could explain these inconsistent findings. As mentioned for other biomarkers related to A $\beta$ , PiB-PET might represent a useful biomarker for specific types of PDD with concurrent AD but not for all types of PDD (e.g. purer Lewy body type cases). Another factor to be considered is that PiB retention in PDD patients seems to be related to diffuse A $\beta$  plaques and not to mature plaques, which are not associated with AD but with pathological aging.<sup>226</sup>

## **Imaging brain perfusion and metabolism**

Regional cerebral blood flow (rCBF) and glucose consumption (FDG uptake - metabolism) can be measured by SPECT and PET respectively (Figure 2). In several studies PDD and PD-MCI patients exhibit areas of reduced rCBF<sup>234-249</sup> and metabolism (more extensive in PDD),<sup>212, 250-258</sup> such as in the frontal, parietal, temporal, occipital and cingulate cortex, the basal ganglia, thalamus and cerebellum. Interestingly, compared to PD-MCI, hypometabolism is more widespread in PDD patients, especially in the posterior cortical areas,<sup>251</sup> and this heralds the progression to dementia in PD patients when considered in conjunction with the hypometabolism in the posterior cingulate and caudate nucleus.<sup>259, 260</sup> Moreover, impairment in specific cognitive domains is correlated with patterns of rCBF and hypometabolism in several studies.<sup>235, 251, 261-267</sup> Furthermore, a recent study in a cohort of PDD patients with a multimodal PET approach show a correlation between hypometabolism, amyloid load and microglial activation ([<sup>11</sup>C]- (R)PK11195 PET) in the anterior and posterior cingulate, striatum and frontal, temporal, parietal and occipital cortical regions.<sup>250</sup>

In summary, reduced rCBF and FDG uptake in the posterior cortical areas seems to be a useful biomarker of dementia in PD,<sup>251</sup> in line with functional and spectroscopic MRI data.<sup>187, 190</sup> In addition, considering the heterogeneity of PD-MCI, a multi-tracer approach might be worth studying to decipher biomarkers of MCI that could eventually develop into dementia.

## **NEUROPHYSIOLOGY**

### **Electroencephalography (EEG) and magnetoencephalography**

PDD patients have slow EEG activity,<sup>268-271</sup> with an increase in power at the delta (1-4 Hz) and theta (4-8 Hz) frequencies.<sup>272-274</sup> In addition, PD-MCI patients have increased



activity in the theta band in the frontal region<sup>275</sup> and reduced alpha activity (8-10 Hz) in the right temporal region<sup>276</sup> compared with PDCN patients. Moreover, PDND patients with a low background rhythm frequency had a higher ratio of progression to dementia<sup>277</sup> or global cognitive decline,<sup>278</sup> and low background EEG frequencies have also been associated with poor outcomes in global cognition,<sup>279, 280</sup> attention, executive function, verbal fluency and long-term memory.<sup>281, 282</sup>

Although expensive and with restricted accessibility, another way to measure cortical neuron activity is magnetoencephalography, which provides a measure of rhythmic activity and of the synchronization of oscillatory activity over long distances with higher temporal resolution. In addition to a widespread increase in the relative power of the delta band, and a decreased power of the alpha and beta bands,<sup>283</sup> PDD patients have reduced long distance intra-hemispheric bilateral fronto-temporal and inter-temporal synchronization.<sup>284</sup> As such, current evidence indicates a clear association between low frequency oscillatory activity and cognitive impairment. Thus, the use of novel analytical EEG approaches should be considered in the search for biomarkers of dementia in PD, particularly as they are cheap and easy to employ.

### **Event-related potentials**

Event-related potentials (ERPs) involve cortical responses associated with sensory, motor or cognitive events,<sup>285</sup> in which later components (after 100 ms) are thought to reflect cognitive processing. The most widely studied in PD is the P3 or P300 (elicited by visual or auditory stimuli), which appears to be delayed in PDD compared with controls<sup>286-289</sup> or PDND patients.<sup>290, 291</sup> Indeed, P300 correlates with many cognitive functions in PDND patients like memory, visual perception and executive functions.<sup>292-296</sup> A recently developed transcranial

magnetic stimulation (TMS) method that is coupled to simultaneous peripheral nerve stimulation at different intervals can produce short latency afferent inhibition (SAI), which is thought to provide a measure of cholinergic function. Several studies show that SAI is dampened in patients with PDD<sup>297</sup> and PD-MCI,<sup>298</sup> while there is no difference in SAI between PDCN and control subjects. Due to the relevance of the cholinergic system in the cognitive deficits in PD, this is a promising technique to be considered in the search for biomarkers of PD-MCI with higher risk of dementia.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

An important factor to consider when evaluating the potential biomarkers studied is the fact that dementia and MCI in PD are heterogeneous, both from the clinical and the pathological perspective. In addition, different biomarkers may provide complementary information that could be combined to achieve better sensitivity and specificity in the detection of dementia, and MCI with a high risk of progressing to dementia (Table 3). The data currently available indicate that genetic information could aid the detection of PD patients at a high risk of dementia at the time of diagnosis, yet this sheds no light on the probability and the time lag in this cognitive decline. By contrast, other biomarkers aim to prematurely detect dementia during the evolution of the disease and they could be especially useful to flag those PD-MCI patients at high risk of developing dementia in the short- to mid-term.

**Table 3.** Summary of the potential biomarkers of PDD and PD-MCI in function of the pathological processes implicated.

BIOMARKER	CSF		PLASMA		GENES		PET/SPECT IMAGING	
	PDD	PD-MCI	PDD	PD-MCI	PDD	PD-MCI	PDD	PD-MCI
<b>PATHOLOGY-RELATED</b>								
Amyloid- $\beta^{\text{y}}$	↓/=	↓/=	---	---	↑ <i>APOE</i> $\epsilon$ 4*	---	↑PiB uptake/=	↑PiB uptake/=
Tau $^{\text{y}}$	↑/=	↑/=	---	---	↑H1 haplotype and H1/H1 genotype/ No association	---	---	---
P-tau	↑/=	↑/=	---	---		---	---	---
$\alpha$ -synuclein	↑/=	---	---	---	Duplication, triplication	---	---	---
<b>NEUROTRANSMITTER DYSFUNCTION</b>								
Dopamine	---	---	---	---	=	---	↓ subcortical DaT or fluorodopa uptake/=	↓ subcortical DaT or fluorodopa uptake /=
					COMT (Val158Met) associated with ↓ executive function in PDND			
Acetylcholine	---	---	---	---	---	---	↓ cortical AChE activity/=	---
<b>INFLAMMATION/INMUNE RESPONSE</b>								
CRP	↑	---	=	---	---	---	↑ microglial activation in the cingulate, striatum, frontal, temporal, parietal and occipital cortices	---
IL-1 $\beta$	---	↑	---	---	---	---		
IL-6 $^{\text{y}}$	=	↑	---	---	---	---		
IL-17A	---	---	---	---	Genotype C/C of the rs8193036 polymorphism;MM SE < 26	---		
IL-10	---	---	---	---	Polymorphism RS1800896; no association	---		
TNF- $\alpha^{\text{y}}$	=	↓	---	---	---	---		
INF- $\gamma$	---	↓	---	---	Polymorphism T874A; no association	---		

PGE <sub>2</sub>	---	=	---	---	---	---
IP10	=	---	---	---	---	---
MIP1 $\beta$	=	---	---	---	---	---
MCP1	=	---	---	---	---	---
<b>OXIDATIVE STRESS</b>						
Uric acid <sup><math>\delta</math>,<math>\yen</math></sup>	↓	---	=	---	---	---
<b>NEUROTROPHIC/NEUROPROTECTION</b>						
EGF <sup><math>\yen</math></sup>	---	---	↓	---	---	---
BDNF	=	---	---	---	Polymorphism Val196Met; no association	---
Vitamin D	---	---	=	---	---	---
<b>OTHER</b>						
Homocysteine <sup><math>\yen</math></sup>	↑/=	=	↑/=	=	Variants in MTHFR, COMT and other genes related to homocysteine metabolism; no association	---

**Abbreviations** ”=””, No differences. **Biomarkers:** CRP, C reactive protein; IL-1 $\beta$ , Interleukin-1 $\beta$ ; IL-6, Interleukin-6; L-17A, Interleukin 17A; IL-10, Interleukin 10; TNF- $\alpha$ , Tumor necrosis factor alpha; IFN- $\gamma$ , Interferon gamma; PGE<sub>2</sub>, Prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub>; IP10, Interferon gamma-induced protein-10; MIP1 $\beta$ , Macrophage inflammatory protein-1; MCP1, Monocyte chemotactic protein-1; EGF, Epidermal Growth Factor; BDNF, Brain Derived Neurotrophic Factor; PiB, Pittsburgh Compound B. **Subjects:** PDND, Parkinson’s disease non-demented; PDD, Parkinson’s disease with dementia; PD-MCI, Parkinson’s disease with mild cognitive impairment.

\*APOE encodes for apolipoprotein E, and it is associated with the cerebral Amyloid- $\beta$  load

<sup>$\delta$</sup> Low urine uric acid levels associated with worse performance in several cognitive outcomes

<sup>$\yen$</sup> Association with cognition in PDND, PD-MCI or PDD

The data available allow us to conclude that genetic variants in *COMT* may account for differences in frontal dopaminergic function, they are typically associated with an executive subtype of PD-MCI with a low risk of dementia.<sup>92, 97, 111-115</sup> By contrast, the *APOE*  $\epsilon$ 4 allele,<sup>92, 94, 95</sup> the H1 haplotype of the *MAPT* gene<sup>97, 98</sup> and mutations in the *GBA* gene<sup>109</sup> all seem to be risk factors of dementia. However, they might be associated with different PD-MCI subtypes and probability of progression to dementia with slightly different cerebral pathology. Indeed, even in PDCN patients these mutations are associated with deficient activation in restricted brain territories when confronted with specific cognitive tests.<sup>99, 111, 113, 115</sup> Thus, *APOE*  $\epsilon$ 4 might be associated with a more amnesic AD-like phenotype of PD-MCI, while *MAPT* and *GBA* might be involved in more visuospatial patterns.

Regarding the proteins related to pathological cerebral inclusions, currently only low A $\beta$  levels in the CSF and PiB PET studies detecting A $\beta$  fibrils in the brain could have some potential to detect early dementia among PD-MCI patients. This could reflect a subgroup of patients with concurrent AD or AD pathological changes in whom the *APOE*  $\epsilon$ 4 allele might be also overrepresented. In this sense, these markers might not be useful for the purer LB cases of PDD, which could in turn be more related to *GBA* mutations.<sup>108-110</sup> Oligomers of  $\alpha$ -synuclein in the CSF are worth pursuing, both in sporadic PD but importantly, also in patients with *GBA* mutations. In addition, the ratios of tau, A $\beta$  and  $\alpha$ -synuclein could improve the predictive value of each protein independently, or help to differentiate between different forms of PD-MCI. New PET radiotracers to reliably mark *in vivo* tau and  $\alpha$ -synuclein are needed to derive a complete picture of the clinical and pathological phenotypes of MCI subtypes, and how they progress towards dementia.

In addition, independently of the genetic fingerprint and pathological cerebral inclusions, it may be worth pursuing the study of lipids and of proteins related to metabolic processes (inflammation, oxidative stress, etc.) in CSF or plasma/serum, as well as neurotrophic factors

putatively involved in neurodegeneration such as EGF, ILGF, UA, neurofilament light chain protein and fatty acid binding-protein.<sup>47, 59, 63-65</sup> Besides their diagnostic value, these fluid biomarkers may be particularly relevant in revealing dysfunctional biological processes that might be targets for pharmacological modulation (e.g. inflammation).

On the other hand, the cerebral cholinergic deficits detected by PET also seem to be a promising biomarker of dementia<sup>212-215, 219, 220</sup> but due to practical issues, alternative cheap and easy ways to evaluate cholinergic function should be considered, such as new neurophysiological studies (TMS combined with ERP).<sup>297, 298</sup>

Pathological inclusions and neurotransmission deficits provoke neuronal dysfunction and death, which can be assessed by structural and functional imaging. Despite the fact that atrophy in structures like the hippocampus<sup>21, 163, 164</sup> and reduced activity/metabolism in posterior cerebral areas<sup>187, 251</sup> are associated with progression to dementia, no MRI modalities or FDG-PET are sufficiently reliable as to accurately predict progression to dementia at the single-patient level, as seen in CSF and peripheral fluid studies. Similarly to what has been discussed for other biomarkers, it could be that these findings are associated with subtypes of MCI (ie. hippocampal atrophy with AD/amnesic type, and posterior dysfunction with visuospatial/LB type). The coupling of different PET studies, multimodal MRI and classic and modern neurophysiological approaches (EEG and ERP), to more sophisticated analytical methods (i.e. neuronal networks, classifiers, etc.) represents a promising approach that might give rise to new tools to identify and stratify patients with distinct types of cognitive impairment and risk of dementia.

Multidisciplinary prospective studies in large cohorts of properly classified PD-MCI patients that assess the most promising biomarkers encountered in PDD patients, are now necessary to diagnose PD-MCI patients that are at high risk of progressing to dementia. In addition, studies

in early PD patients could also allow subtypes of PD with precocious development of dementia to be identified.

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(1) Research Project: A, Conception; B, Organization; C, Execution.

(2) Statistical Analysis: A, Design; B, Execution; C, Review and Critique

(3) Manuscript Preparation: A, Writing of the first draft; B, Review and Critique.

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## **LEYEND FOR TABLES AND FIGURES**

**Table 1.** Summary of the studies that evaluated CSF amyloid  $\beta$ 1-42 ( $A\beta$ 1-42), total tau (t-tau), phosphorylated tau (p-tau), total  $\alpha$ -synuclein (t- $\alpha$ -syn), and oligomeric  $\alpha$ -synuclein (o- $\alpha$ -syn) as potential biomarkers for PDD or PD-MCI

**Table 2.** Summary of genetic studies assessing APOE, MAPT and GBA as potential biomarkers of PD-MCI and PDD.

**Table 3.** Summary of the potential biomarkers of PDD and PD-MCI in function of the pathological processes implicated.

**Figure 1.** Summary of the potential biomarkers of PDD and PD-MCI found in studies of MRI, PET (cerebral metabolism) and SPECT (regional cerebral blood flow), body fluids, genetic background, and neurophysiology.

**Figure 2.** Summary of PET and SPECT studies that have assessed cerebral metabolism or regional cerebral blood flow respectively as potential biomarkers of PD-MCI and PDD.

**Supplementary table 1.** Summary of studies assessing CSF potential biomarkers for PDD and PD-MCI other than neuropathologic proteins and studies assessing potential biomarkers in plasma/serum and urine.

**Supplementary table 2.** Summary of PiB PET and acetylcholine-related PET and SPECT studies assessing PD-MCI or PDD and those reporting correlations with any cognitive measure in PD, PDND or PDCN.