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# Association Between Cognitive Factors and Visual Hallucinations in Parkinson's Disease

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### ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Parkinson's disease has a chronic and neurodegenerative evolution. With population aging, its incidence and prevalence increase. Its clinical features consist mainly of tremor, stiffness and bradykinesia; however, it is increasingly evident that non-motor symptoms, even if they are outside the diagnostic criteria, may be more disabling than motor manifestations. **Studies** indicate that visual hallucinations may be a prodromal symptom for cognitive impairment in these patients. **Objective:** To verify the association between visual hallucinations as a predictive factor for the development of cognitive alterations in Parkinson's disease. **Methodology:** A search was performed on the PubMed and BVS databases, using the descriptors "Hallucinations", "Cognition" and "Parkinson's disease". The inclusion criteria were: articles published between 2013 and 2017, in English and that fit the theme chosen. **Review articles and on animals were excluded.** **Results and Discussion:** From the 54 articles located, only 15 were in the focus of this review. Although visual hallucinations occur in about a quarter of patients with Parkinson's disease, they are not well recognized in medical practice, even though they are associated with the onset of psychosis, motor signals and more severe depression, and are an important risk factor for the development of dementia in Parkinson's Disease. Therefore, the early recognition of visual hallucinations and cognitive changes in this disease would allow directed intervention in the early stages and a better prognosis. **Conclusion:** The studies point to the need of the identification of visual hallucinations and cognitive impairment in Parkinson's disease who have not been properly recognized. This perception may contribute to an earlier, holistic and integrated care, also considering these non-motor symptoms in the treatment, providing quality of life for patients, their families, caregivers and reducing the need for institutionalization.

**Keyword:** Cognition; Hallucinations; Parkinson's disease

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