



International Journal of Behavioral and Brain Science
(DOI:10.28933/IJBBS)



Herpes Zoster: Increased Risk for Parkinson Disease Development?

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Parkinson's disease is a neurodegenerative disease characterized clinically by the onset of tremor, stiffness, bradykinesia and postural instability. In addition to motor symptoms, some non-motor signals may be observed, such as olfactory dysfunction, sleep disturbance, constipation, depression, irritable bowel syndrome, hearing loss, cataract, and others. Some non-motor symptoms may precede the onset of motor symptoms that characterize Parkinson's disease. Herpes zoster infection, as a potential predecessor for the disease, was recently reported. **Objective:** In this study, we report the case of a patient, attended at the University Hospital of Sergipe (HU), with initial symptoms of herpes zoster infection who developed Parkinson's disease in a subsequent year. **Methodology:** A chart analysis was performed, where information such as age, sex, occupation, residence, previous pathological history and clinical evolution were collected. **Results and Discussion:** A 70-year-old male patient was admitted to the Neurology outpatient clinic, HU, in 2007. He reported being a former smoker and having cancer of the axillary region in 2003. Physical examination showed bilateral tremor, accentuated in upper left and left cog wheel. The patient was attended until 2015 in the hospital, followed with use of Prolopa, symptomatic treatment and motor physiotherapy. He did not evolve with psychiatric alterations. The symptoms of Parkinson's disease began approximately one year after herpes zoster infection in the chest region, where the patient started a tremor in the fingers of one hand, which evolved throughout the arm, leading the patient to his first care in the HU in 2007. **Conclusion:** Herpes zoster infection may possibly confer a slightly increased risk of developing Parkinson's disease when compared to patients without shingles.

Keywords: Parkinson's disease; Neurodegenerative Diseases; Neurology

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How to cite this article:

Farias, L.H.S; Silva, J.P.R; Santiago Junior, J.B; Santos, E.L; Mendonça, D.M.F. Herpes Zoster: Increased Risk for Parkinson Disease Development?. International Journal of Behavioral and Brain Science, 2018, 1:2

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