



## CIGARETTE SMOKING IS THE LOWER RISK OF PARKINSON DISEASE

Suresh Undati\*, Madhuri Boompally, Saikumar Manneboina, Srikanth Kotari

Nicotine From Cigarette May Increases The Levels of Dopaminergic Systems.

\*Corresponding Author: Suresh Undati

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### ABSTRACT

Parkinson disease is the one of the most common neurologic disorder, affecting approximately 1% of individuals over than 60 years causing progressive disability that can be slowed, but not halted, by treatment. As a major component of tobacco smoke, nicotine has been proposed to be a substance for preventing against Parkinson disease risk. With a key role in regulating striatal activity and behaviours mediated through the dopaminergic system. Animal studies also showed that nicotine could modulate dopamine transmission and reduce levodopa-induced dyskinesias. However, previous clinical trials yield controversial results regarding nicotine treatment. In this review, we updated epidemiological, preclinical and clinical data, and studies on nicotine from diet.

**KEYWORDS:** Nicotine, Parkinson disease, Cigarette smoking, Dopamine, Gene.

### INTRODUCTION

Parkinson disease is an age-related neurodegenerative disorder, with a prevalence of 1-2% among adults aged 55 years and older.<sup>[1]</sup> It is characterized by a progressive degeneration of dopaminergic neurons in the substantia nigra pars compacta that results in tremor, rigidity, bradykinesia, and possibly dementia.<sup>[2]</sup> The current evidence related to the pathogenesis of parkinson disease includes defective handling of proteins mitochondrial dysfunction, oxidative stress, and inflammation.<sup>[3-6]</sup> There is no cure for the disease and only symptomatic relief is available. Especially in the early stages of the disease, dopamine replacement therapies provide effective control of the motor symptoms with L-dopa as the gold standard. However, chronic L-dopa use does not adequately manage the non-motor deficits and additionally induces a variety of motor and psychiatric side effects that limits its effectiveness.<sup>[7,8]</sup> These shortcomings strengthen the importance of identifying alternate treatment strategies that delay or halt disease progression, or ideally restore function in parkinson disease. Previous reviews reported the association between nicotine and Parkinson disease risk, but the sources were limited to cigarette smoking and medical use. We thus updated epidemiological, preclinical and clinical data, and studies on nicotine from other sources. We also reviewed interactions between genetic factors and cigarette smoking to broaden the understanding of the potential protective nicotine on Parkinson disease.

### EPIDEMIOLOGY

Physicians working on parkinson disease have found nicotine of particular interest since it has been shown that there was less Parkinson disease among smokers. It was firstly noticed 1959,<sup>[9]</sup> and more than 50 epidemiological studies have confirmed this observation.<sup>[10,11]</sup> Some suggested that this association could be give either to a selective mortality of smokers.<sup>[12]</sup> (as parkinsons disease affects more middle-aged and elderly people), to the disease affecting smoking habits or to a reporting bias. However, a case-control study,<sup>[13]</sup> with 350 parkinsons disease patients and 350 matched controls showed a relative risk of 0.52, with an intermediate risk for people who had quit. Further more, huge prospective cohort studies.<sup>[14,15]</sup> brought even more credibility to the hypothesis of a protective role of smoking in Parkinson disease. A pooled analysis confirmed the negative association between Parkinson disease and smoking that was more pronounced for current smokers than former ones;<sup>[16]</sup> it also showed that there was a dose-response, with the ratio decreasing when the pack-years increase, and that other forms of tobacco also had this effect. Even passive smoking seems to be less frequent in parkinson disease than in controls.<sup>[17]</sup> Duration of smoking also seems to be more important than intensity.<sup>[18]</sup> A study in twin pairs in which at least one twin had Parkinson disease found the same negative correlation: the twins without Parkinson disease smoked significantly more than their brothers, even when smoking dose was calculated only until 10 years before Parkinson disease onset;<sup>[19]</sup> this argued against a genetic and behavioral hypothesis, as a link between genetical propensity to smoke and

susceptibility to Parkinson disease. A recent review on nicotine addiction suggested a potential interaction between multiple small-effect alleles and the environment.<sup>[20]</sup>



**Table 1: Gene-smoking interactions for Parkinson Disease.**

First author, year of publication	Study participants	Gene studied	Results
Greenbaum, 2013. <sup>[21]</sup>	667 Italian PD patients	CHRNA3, CHRNA4, and CHRNA5	A significant interaction between the CHRNA5 (rs588765) and smoking status (never smokers vs. ever-smokers)
Hancock, 2006. <sup>[22]</sup>	466 singleton and 286 multiplex families in the United States	NOS2A	Significant interactions of NOS2A (rs2255929 and rs1060826) with smoking in a subset of the families
Miyake, 2012. <sup>[24]</sup>	229 PD patients and 357 controls in Japan	SNCA	Significant interactions between SNCA (rs356219 and rs356220) and smoking with respect to sporadic PD
McCulloch, 2008. <sup>[23]</sup>	932 PD patients and 664 controls in the United States	MAPT, SNCA, UCHL1, and APOE	A significant interaction between SNCA REP1 and smoking
Palma, 2010. <sup>[25]</sup>	767 PD patients and 1989 controls in Europe	CYP1B1, CYP2D6, GSTM1, GSTM3, GSTT1, GSTP1, NQ01, SOD2, EPHX, NAT2, MAOA, MAOB, DAT1, and DRD2	Significant interactions between smoking and GSTM1 Pos/Null, GSTP1 haplotype, and NAT2 Fast/slow

Except positing that nicotine is neuroprotective, inherent aversion to nicotine-containing products could be another potential explanation. To date, several genetic studies have been conducted to explore the potential interaction between smoking and genetic factors on PD risk (Table 1). For example, a study including 677 PD patients reported a significant interaction between the nicotinic cholinergic receptor gene cluster CHRNA5 (rs588765) and smoking on age of onset of PD.<sup>[21]</sup> In an early study that included 466 singletons and 286 multiplex families, significant interactions between smoking and two SNPs (rs2255929 and rs1060826) of inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS) gene (NOS2A) in relation to PD risk were observed.<sup>[22]</sup> One possible interpretation for this observed interaction is that cigarette smoking condensates could attenuate

inflammatory induction of iNOS, and reduce its cytotoxic effects.<sup>[22]</sup> doi: 10.1016/j.par Although earlier results were inconsistent, recent studies showed that a dinucleotide repeat polymorphism (REP1) in the promoter region of the  $\alpha$ -synuclein gene (SNCA) was associated with the risk of common late-onset PD.<sup>[24]</sup> For example, a case-control study with 932 PD cases showed an interaction between SNCA REP1 and smoking on the risk of PD.<sup>[23]</sup> Another recent case-control study including 229 PD cases reported that smoking significantly modified the association between SNCA polymorphisms (rs356220 and rs356219) and PD risk.<sup>[24]</sup> In addition, many other genetic polymorphisms have been implicated in tobacco-PD relation, such as SLC2A13, GSTM1, NAT2, and GSTP1, etc., but the findings are inconsistent.<sup>[25]</sup> krelid.2012.07.007.

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Not applicable.

**CONCLUSION**

Despite of extensive evidence from epidemiological and basic research studies suggesting that nicotine may represent an effective agent with potential for prevention and alleviation PD, clinical data vary to a major extent between individuals. Discrepancies of those controversial results can be partly explained by differences of clinical stages of PD participants and research methodologies, and may also be due to the underlying gene-environment interactions. In addition, poor tolerability and high drop-out rate are inevitable concerns in such clinical trials. As a small amount of nicotine can saturate a substantial portion of nicotine receptors in the brain, nicotine from other sources, such as diet, could be a promising therapeutic substance for protection against PD.

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