Diagnosis and treatment of Parkinson's Disease: a systematic review of the literature

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Authors' objectives
Parkinson's Disease (PD) is estimated to affect over 1 percent of the population over age 65. The objective of this systematic review is to assess the quantity and quality of published evidence regarding diagnosis and treatment of patients with PD.

Authors' conclusions
PD is diagnosed clinically; there is currently no gold standard premorbid diagnostic test for PD. Meta-analyses of different pharmacological treatments showed that the only medication that consistently controlled PD symptoms better than L-dopa alone was the combination of L-dopa plus COMT inhibitors in patients with advanced PD. Meta-analyses suggest that pallidotomy and DBS result in improvement of PD rating scores. The published literature regarding PD suffers from lack of reporting standardized outcomes.

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