A DOUBLE-BLIND STUDY OF THE EFFECTS OF LEVODOPA IN PARKINSON'S DISEASE

KK Nakano, HR Tyler

Neurology 1971;21:1069-1074

There is considerable evidence suggesting that the symptoms of parkinsonism are related to a depletion of striatal dopamine.¹⁻⁴ Since oral dopamine does not cross the blood-brain barrier, efforts have focused on the systemic administration of L-dopa, dopamine's immediate precursor, which appears to pass through the barrier. Recent studies indicate that L-dopa is rapidly becoming the treatment of choice in parkinsonism.⁵⁻⁸ In the present study, a double-blind therapeutic trial has been used in the treatment of Parkinson's syndrome. The purpose of the study is to compare L-dopa to a conventional antiparkinsonian medication (procyclidine hydrochloride) and a placebo (lactose). Additionally, this study has been designed to determine whether a two- to six-week period is an adequate length of time to see the benefits of L-dopa therapy in parkinsonian patients receiving no other medication. It was also designed so that a patient could continue to take any drug that brought about significant improvement; in such cases, he was not required to try the other drugs in the study.

References can be found in the online article.

Free Access to this article at www.neurology.org/content/21/10/1069

Comment from Ryan J. Uitti, MD, FAAN, Associate Editor: *This was a landmark study documenting the monumental effects of the best treatment for the most common movement disorder.*

Neurology®

A double-blind study of the effects of levodopa in Parkinson's disease

KK Nakano and HR Tyler

Neurology 2011;76;1865

DOI 10.1212/01.wnl.0000398731.05583.fa

This information is current as of May 30, 2011

Updated Information & Services

including high resolution figures, can be found at:
<http://n.neurology.org/content/76/22/1865.citation.full>

Permissions & Licensing

Information about reproducing this article in parts (figures, tables) or in its entirety can be found online at:
http://www.neurology.org/about/about_the_journal#permissions

Reprints

Information about ordering reprints can be found online:
<http://n.neurology.org/subscribers/advertise>

Neurology® is the official journal of the American Academy of Neurology. Published continuously since 1951, it is now a weekly with 48 issues per year. Copyright © 2011 by AAN Enterprises, Inc.. All rights reserved. Print ISSN: 0028-3878. Online ISSN: 1526-632X.