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**ACADEMIA ITALIANA PER LO STUDIO DELLA MALATTIA DI PARKINSON
E I DISORDINI DEL MOVIMENTO**



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Gender effect on non-motor symptoms in Parkinson's disease: are men more at risk for most of them?

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Introduction: Non-motor symptoms (NMS) are common in Parkinson's Disease (PD) patients. Nonetheless, NMS are prevalent also in the aging population and only few studies compared their occurrence in PD patients and in the general population.

Aims: To evaluate the burden of NMS among PD patients with respect to the general population and possible gender differences in their occurrence.

Methods: The FRAGAMP study is a large multicenter case-control study. Patients affected by PD diagnosed according to the Gelb's diagnostic criteria were consecutively enrolled. Controls were gathered from among healthy people who accompanied non-parkinsonian patients and were matched by age and area of residence.

Sleep, gastrointestinal, urinary and sexual dysfunction were investigated using a standardized questionnaire. Cognitive impairment and depression were assessed using the Mini Mental State Examination and the Hamilton Depression Rating Scale respectively.

Results: The study enrolled a total of 585 cases and 481 controls.

Among PD patients, excepting for sexual dysfunction, almost all NMS investigated were more frequent among women; a close prevalence was recorded only for cognitive impairment and sleep disorders. However, when compared with the control population, logistic regression stratified by sex showed a higher risk of developing almost all NMS among men with ORs ranging from 2.52 (95% CI 1.54 - 4.11) to 37.3 (95% CI 5.12-271.40).

Conclusion: Compared with the normal aging population, our study shows a greater risk of developing NMS among PD men, probably due to a different background risk.