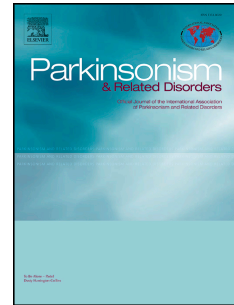


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Shen-Yang Lim, Ai Huey Tan



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Historical Perspective: The Pros and Cons of Conventional Outcome Measures in Parkinson's Disease

Shen-Yang Lim, MD, FRACP

Ai Huey Tan, MD, MRCP

Author Affiliations: Division of Neurology and the Mah Pooi Soo & Tan Chin Nam Centre for Parkinson's & Related Disorders, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Corresponding Author: Shen-Yang Lim, MBBS, MD, FRACP, FASc, Neurology Laboratory, Level 6 (South Block), University of Malaya Medical Centre, 50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (limshenyang@gmail.com). Tel.: +60 3 7949 2891. Fax: +60 3 7949 4613.

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Abstract

BACKGROUND: Conventional outcome measures (COMs) in Parkinson's disease (PD) refer to rating scales, questionnaires, patient diaries and clinically-based tests that do not require specialized equipment. **METHODS:** It is timely at this juncture - as clinicians and researchers begin to grapple with the "invasion" of digital technologies - to review the strengths and weaknesses of these outcome measures. **RESULTS:** This paper discusses advances (including an enhanced understanding of PD itself, and the development of clinimetrics as a field) that have led to improvements in the COMs used in PD; their strengths and limitations; and factors to consider when selecting and using a measuring instrument. **CONCLUSIONS:** It is envisaged that in the future, a combination of COMs and technology-based objective measures will be utilized, with different methods having their own strengths and weaknesses. Judgement is required on the part of the clinician and researcher in terms of which instrument(s) are appropriate to use, depending on the particular clinical or research setting or question.

Keywords: Clinical trials; Conventional outcome measures; MDS Task Force; Questionnaires; Rating scales; Sensors.

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