

Abstract

This work is dedicated to the monitoring of prospective memory development in patients with REM sleep behaviour disorder (RBD). RBD, due to its close association with the subsequent development of neurodegenerative diseases, especially the α -synucleinopathies, is increasingly at the forefront of research and clinical interest. The theoretical part of the thesis describes RBD, its clinical manifestations, etiology and relation to neurodegenerative processes. The second half of this section is devoted to prospective memory, its theoretical background and the factors that influence its performance. The empirical part includes a longitudinal analysis of data from the observational Biomarkers of Parkinson's Disease study, focusing on changes in prospective memory and its components in RBD patients, including analysis of individual patient subgroups. Prospective memory performance was measured using the standardized Memory for Intention Test (MIST). Statistical analysis showed that the presence of an RBD diagnosis alone did not lead to a faster decline in prospective memory performance during the follow-up period compared to the healthy control group. The results of this thesis suggest that prospective memory may be a cognitive function whose decline in performance may be partly explained by natural aging and not necessarily by neurodegenerative processes associated with RBD. Analysis of the MIST results also shows its psychometric limitations, the so-called floor effect, which may have influenced the results of this thesis. Finally, this thesis discusses and suggests measures that may lead to future refinement of prospective memory research in clinical populations.

Keywords: REM sleep behaviour disorder; RBD; prospective memory; Memory for Intention Test; MIST; cognitive functions; Parkinson's disease