

Motion sickness susceptibility and visually induced motion sickness as diagnostic signs in Parkinson's disease

Arthur Petel (1)*, Deborah Jacob (2)*, Romain Aubonnet (2), Solène Frismand (3), Hannes Petersen (4,5), Paolo Gargiulo (2,6), Philippe Perrin (1,7)

(1) EA 3450 DevAH - Development, Adaptation and Handicap, Faculty of Medicine, University of Lorraine, Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy, France; (2) Institute of Biomedical and Neural Engineering, Reykjavik University, Reykjavik, Iceland; (3) Neurology Department, University Hospital of Nancy, Nancy, France; (4) Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine, School of Health Sciences, University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland; Akureyri Hospital, Akureyri, Iceland; (5) Department of Science, Landspítali, National University Hospital of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland; (6) Department of Science, Landspítali, National University Hospital of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland; (7) Laboratory for the Analysis of Posture, Equilibrium and Motor Function (LAPeM), University Hospital of Nancy, Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy, France.

*These authors contributed equally

This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Noncommercial License (CC BY-NC 4.0) which permits any noncommercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author(s) and source are credited.

Abstract

Postural instability and loss of vestibular and somatosensory acuity are among the signs encountered in Parkinson's disease (PD). Visual dependency is described in PD. These modifications of sensory input hierarchy are predictors of motion sickness (MS). The aim of this study was to assess MS susceptibility and the effects of real induced MS in posture. Sixty-three PD patients, whose medication levels (levodopa) reflected the severity of the pathology were evaluated, and 27 healthy controls, filled a MS questionnaire; 11 PD patients and 41 healthy controls were assessed by posturography using virtual reality. The levels of levodopa predicted visual MS ($p=0.01$), but not real induced MS susceptibility. PD patients did not experience postural instability in virtual reality, contrary to healthy controls. Since PD patients do not seem to feel vestibular stimulated MS, they may not rely on vestibular and somatosensory inputs during the stimulation. However, they feel visually induced MS more with higher levels of levodopa. Levodopa amount can increase visual dependency for postural control. The strongest MS predictors must be studied in PD to better understand the effect of visual stimulation and its absence in vestibular stimulation.

Key Words: Parkinson's disease; motion sickness, motion sickness susceptibility; visual dependency.

Eur J Transl Myol 32 (4): 10884, 2022 doi: 10.4081/ejtm.2022.10884

Parkinson's disease (PD) is a neurodegenerative disease characterized by destruction of dopamine neurons, involved in motor control. The cardinal symptoms are akinesia, rigidity, rest tremor and postural instability. Muscle rigidity affects the patient's motor performance, and plays an important part in their akinesia and postural instability.¹ Although postural instability is often considered as having its origin in motor neurology, non-motor signs as sensory disturbances are also important in PD. Postural instability in PD is not only based on muscle² and joint rigidity,^{1,3} loss of muscle strength,⁴ or failure to generate the right amount of postural force,⁵ but also from a

decrease in sensitivity and integration of the three senses necessary to maintain balance.

Difficulties in somatosensory integration, such as limb position information⁶ and limb motion information^{7,8} are described in PD patients. Therefore, this impaired kinesthesia disturbs postural control.^{9,10} Although vestibular function is impaired in PD patients, it is unclear how it affect posture.¹¹ There were no differences in postural response evoked by galvanic stimulation, affecting Vestibulo Spinal Reflex (VSR), in PD patients compared to controls.¹² However, studies that assessed vestibular-evoked myogenic potential found abnormal responses in PD patients¹³ (see Smith, 2018,¹¹ for a review). Moreover, head tilt perception is

inaccurate, highlighting a vestibular integration deficit.¹⁴ PD patients also experience visuospatial deficits,¹⁵ deteriorating self-motion perception, which are required for optimal postural control.¹⁶ In addition to these sensorial integration dysfunctions, PD patients have difficulties integrating and organizing multisensory information.^{17,18} This sensory organization impairment causes them to be overly reliant on visual input,¹⁹ despite visual deficit, as well for visual subjective vertical,²⁰ for self-motion perception,²¹ and for postural control.^{22,23}

Inadequate integration of different movement stimuli can provoke motion sickness (MS).²⁴ Symptoms of MS such as discomfort, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, vertigo, loss of concentration, headache and increased fatigue are well known.²⁵ MS pathophysiology is two pronged:

- Vestibular stimulation, experienced in passive traveling by motored means of transport as car, train, boat, etc. and worsened by an absence of visual cues, which we call Real Induced Motion Sickness (RIMS).
- Visual stimulation without vestibular stimulation or physical motion.²⁶ Here the individual is motionless but the visual scenario is vivid as in daily life looking at traffic, or when exposed to virtual reality (VR) with head mounted display (Figure 1), provoking Visual Induced Motion Sickness (VIMS).²⁷

Among the different theories explaining MS, the first is a theory of sensory conflict, which argues a neural or a sensory mismatch, especially between visual and vestibular input.^{26,28} Visual dependency can more easily generate MS, when relying on incongruent visual input. Another theory postulates that some situations provoke a prolonged postural instability, thereby inducing MS. For example, in vehicles where people frequently experience changes in gravito-inertial forces, in amplitude and direction, which can provoke postural instability.²⁹ Both theories can provide arguments favorable to a hypothesis that PD patients could be susceptible to MS. Indeed PD patients are known to be visually dependent and to have an unstable posture.^{21,22} Some individual predictors of MS susceptibility can stimulate debate. Mittelstaedt's review³⁰ highlighted the role of vestibular sensitivity in RIMS susceptibility when PD patients had unclear vestibular problems, other predictors such as anxiety^{31,32} or difficulties regulating posture with vestibular input¹⁶ which supports the above hypothesis. However, to our knowledge, no study had been published on this subject. We note that normal aging decreases sensory input acuity also,³³ and that aging could worsen problems already existing in PD, as PD can worsen problems previously existing in the elderly.

Dopaminergic drugs, that are used to reduce the cardinal bradykinetic symptoms of PD, may have side effects that worsen other motor and even non-motor symptoms such as sensorimotor neuropathy and anxiety.

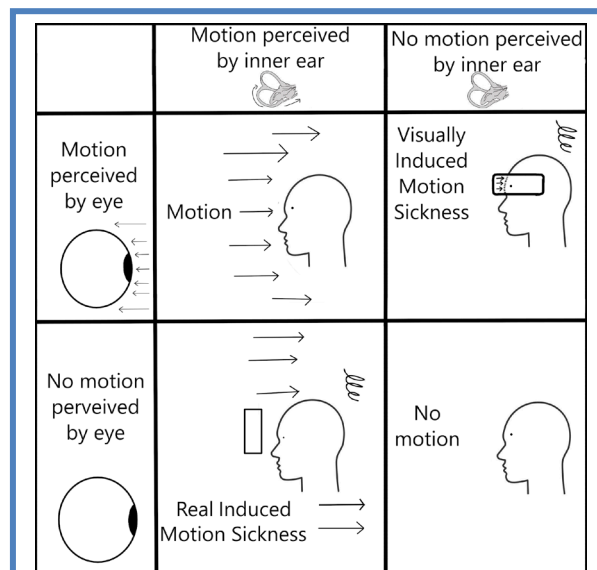


Fig 1. Conditions of Real Induced and Visually Induced Motion Sickness apparition according to sensory mode that perceive motion.

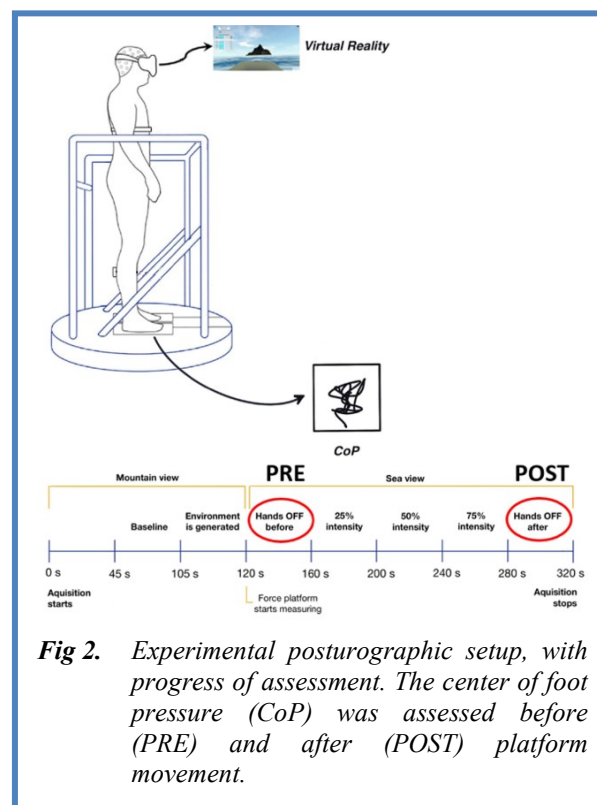


Fig 2. Experimental posturographic setup, with progress of assessment. The center of foot pressure (CoP) was assessed before (PRE) and after (POST) platform movement.

Medication deteriorates postural control by reducing postural reflex response,^{5,34} can degrade proprioceptive input,³⁵ and the score of condition 5 in the Sensory Organization Test where vestibular input is the most important.³⁶ Therefore, we can hypothesize that the more PD patients take dopaminergic drugs, the more they should be susceptible to MS. This study's aim will

be on the one hand to evaluate subjective RIMS and visual discomfort in patients with PD and evaluate if age and the amount of medication can predict susceptibility to visual dependency and RIMS susceptibility. On the other hand, the second aim will be to assess if PD patients have worse postural control than HC in a simulated situation that can provoke RIMS. A VR-based experiment called BioVRSea is used in this case, having previously been shown useful in the assessment of neurophysiological signals of postural control/motion sickness in healthy,³⁷ and concussion subjects.³⁸

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki, and approved by the Icelandic Bioethical Committee, nr. VSN20-101-V, date of approval: February 2022.

All eligible participants were informed about the study protocol and were free to refuse to be included.

Written informed consent to participate in this study was provided by the participants.

Participants

Sixty-three patients with idiopathic PD and 27 Healthy Control (HC), aged between 50 and 90, filled out a questionnaire. Eleven patients with idiopathic PD and 41 HC had a posturographic assessment. HC had to be at least 50 years old, and to have no neurological, ocular disease nor any balance disorder.

Methods

Questionnaire

The MS susceptibility questionnaire was partitioned in two sections. The first part was based on a French version of short Motion Sickness Susceptibility Questionnaire (MSSQ)^{39,40} to assess RIMS susceptibility. This susceptibility was asked for before disease's onset and at the present time for PD patients. Mean score was calculated for both periods. Each item was evaluated with a four point Likert-scale. HC were asked for 10 years ago (called MSSQ 10 years (M10) for both groups) and for current time (called Current MSSQ (CM)). The second part assessed visual dependence susceptibility, based on Mallinson's questionnaire on Visual-Vestibular Mismatch,⁴¹ including 13 items with a four point Likert-scale about visual situations that can lead to sensations of discomfort for the current time only. The situations were varied; some rely on visual motion, some on vestibular sensation motion, and some present an open space visual scene. As described above for the first part, a mean score was calculated for this section (called VD). A neurologist assessed the patient when they came in consultation in University Hospital Nancy. After being assessed with a questionnaire, the neurologist assessed age, amount of daily medication with Levodopa Equivalent Dose (LED), disease severity with Hoehn and Yahr Stage,⁴² and if the participant had

vision conditions such as glaucoma, cataract or macular degeneration, and if patient had an eye operation in his life.

Posturographic assessment

Posturographic evaluation was the same as the one used by Jacob and colleagues, evaluating individuals suffering from concussion.³⁸ After removing their shoes, participants were instructed to stand on a forceplate (sampling frequency 90 Hz, Virtualis, Clapiers, France), mounted on a moveable platform (Virtualis, Clapiers, France). The forceplate had four sensors under each foot platform and computed the Center of Pressure (CoP) in antero-posterior (AP) and medio-lateral (ML) axis.

Participants wore VR goggles showing a stationary mountain view during the first 120 sec., meanwhile they were instructed to stand still on the forceplates. Then the display changed to a sea simulation and participants saw a small boat at sea with waves and a small island in the distance. Participants have still to stand quietly during the first 40 sec (Pre). Then the platform moved synchronized with the displayed waves for 120 sec, with an increase of amplitude every 40 sec (respectively 25, 50 and 75% of maximal amplitude of platform). Patients were asked to remain as upright as possible and to hold security bars on the front of them while the platform moved. Then, the platform stopped moving, while the VR display continued to show the sea scene, and the patient stood quietly during 40 last sec without their hands on the bar (Post) as phase Pre (Figure 2). The platform movement synchronised to the visual stimulation added somatosensory and vestibular stimulation. The subjects can experience a boat simulator with all senses, which can provoke RIMS as if she/he were really on a boat.

For Pre and Post phases, the equivalent of 95% confidence ellipse of area covered and the length travelled by the CoP (Total Excursion, TotEx) were extracted from platform data. As visual stimulation could be more efficient in frontal plane, because of a potential for less efficiency of depth perception,⁴³ the effects on TotEx in the AP axis and ML axis were assessed. Before and after the VR experiment, a questionnaire allowed the assessment of MS symptoms that participants felt.

Statistical analysis

Data analysis was performed using the Statistica Software. To compare MS susceptibility of patients and healthy controls, independent t-tests were performed for each questionnaire part. A 2-way ANOVA (group x time) with repeated measure was performed to assess if PD became more susceptible to RIMS than HC (time being the comparison between M10 and CM). Univariate linear regressions were performed between the mean scores for each questionnaire part and parameters such as age, disease duration and LED for PD patients, which can reflect loss of and need for dopamine.

Motion sickness susceptibility in Parkinson's disease

Eur J Transl Myol 32 (4): 10884, 2022 doi: 10.4081/ejtm.2022.10884

Table 1. Participants' demographic data for questionnaire (on left) and for postural assessment (on right). Mean (\pm SD) or n (%).

| | | Parkinson Disease (questionnaire) | Healthy Control (questionnaire) | Parkinson Disease (postural control) | Healthy Control (postural control) |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| n | | 63 | 27 | 11 | 41 |
| Age | | 67.1 (\pm 9.2) | 62.2 (\pm 8.5) | 62.3 (\pm 12.4) | 58.9 (\pm 6.4) |
| Gender | Men | 42 (67%) | 12 (44%) | 9 (82%) | 19 (46%) |
| | Women | 20 (32%) | 15 (56%) | 2 (18%) | 22 (54%) |
| Hoehn and Yahr stage | Stage 1 | 4 (6%) | | | |
| | Stage 2 | 32 (51%) | | | |
| | Stage 2.5 | 2 (3%) | | | |
| | Stage 3 | 21 (33%) | | | |
| Ocular disease | Glaucoma | 1 (2%) | 0 (0%) | | |
| | Cataract | 13 (21%) | 1 (4%) | | |
| | Macular degeneration | 3 (5%) | 0 (0%) | | |
| | Eye surgery | 16 (25%) | 3 (11%) | | |

For posturographic assessment, a 2-way ANOVA (group x situation) with repeated measure was performed for each parameter (the comparison between Pre and Post conditions). Then, a post-hoc analysis was performed with a Tukey-HSD. As sample sizes are unequal and lose statistical power using ANOVA, a paired T-test was performed for each group between Pre and Post, and a T-test for unequal variance (Welch test) was performed in each situation to compare groups. Bonferroni correction was applied. As each set of data has two comparisons, the significant threshold will be 0.025 instead 0.05.

Results

Population description

Sixty-three participants with PD (42 men, 20 women, one information missing) and 27 HC (12 men and 15 women) filled out the MS questionnaire. Mean age of PD patients was 67.1 (SD 9.2) y and mean age of HC was 62.2 (SD 8.5) y. Age difference between groups was significant ($t = 2.3, p = 0.02$). Mean Hoehn and Yahr stage was 2.3 (SD 0.6), with four patients where stage was not supplied. Complete demographic data are presented in Table 1 in the left-hand columns.

Postural control was evaluated in 11 PD patients and 41 HC. Mean age of PD patients was 62.3 (SD 12.4) and mean age of HC was 58.9 (SD 6.4). There were no age differences between groups. Patients were all classified as early stage. Demographic data are presented in Table 1 in the right-hand columns.

Motion sickness susceptibility

No difference was demonstrated between PD and HC participants for M10 ($M = 0.62, SD = 0.71$ vs $M = 0.49, SD = 0.55, p = 0.40$), for MA ($M = 0.71, SD = 0.86$ vs $M = 0.44, SD = 0.60, p = 0.14$) and for VD ($M = 0.73, SD = 0.68$ vs $M = 0.52, SD = 0.59, p = 0.16$) (Figure 3). ANOVA reveals no group effect ($F(1,88) = 1.38, p = 0.24$), nor time effect ($F(1,88) = 0.20, p = 0.66$), nor interaction effect ($F(1,88) = 1.64, p = 0.20$). In M10, no difference between groups was highlighted, in the period in which both groups were healthy (before onset of the disease in PD patients).

Figure 4 shows the correlation between questionnaire scores and age and between questionnaire scores and

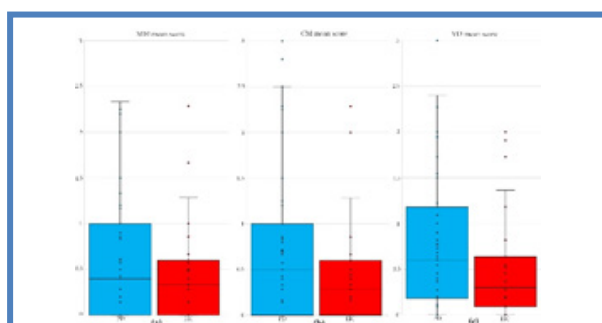


Fig 3. Mean score of the questionnaire parts, compared between Parkinson Disease (PD) patients and Healthy Controls (HC). Mean score of motion sickness susceptibility ten years ago or before disease onset (M10) (a), mean score of current sickness susceptibility (CM) (b), mean score of visual dependency (VD) (c).

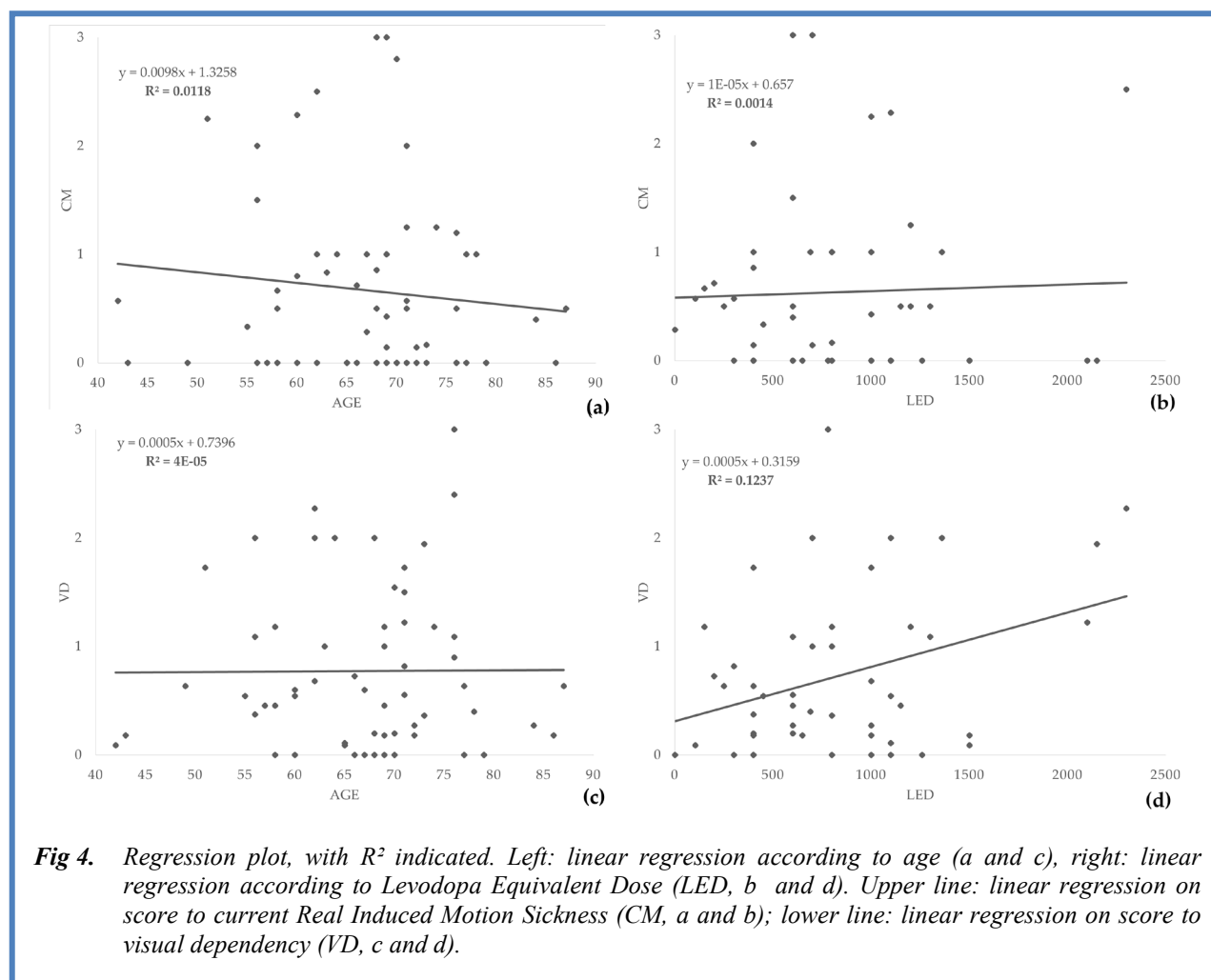


Fig 4. Regression plot, with R^2 indicated. Left: linear regression according to age (a and c), right: linear regression according to Levodopa Equivalent Dose (LED, b and d). Upper line: linear regression on score to current Real Induced Motion Sickness (CM, a and b); lower line: linear regression on score to visual dependency (VD, c and d).

LED. Age cannot predict M10 ($R^2 = 0.01$, $p = 0.33$), nor MC ($R^2 < 0.01$, $p = 0.40$) nor VD ($R^2 < 0.01$, $p = 0.96$) scores. LED cannot predict either M10 ($R^2 < 0.01$, $p = 0.74$) or MA ($R^2 < 0.01$, $p = 0.95$) scores. Nonetheless, higher LED is predictive of a higher score in VD ($R^2 = 0.12$, $p = 0.013$).

Posturography and Motion Sickness

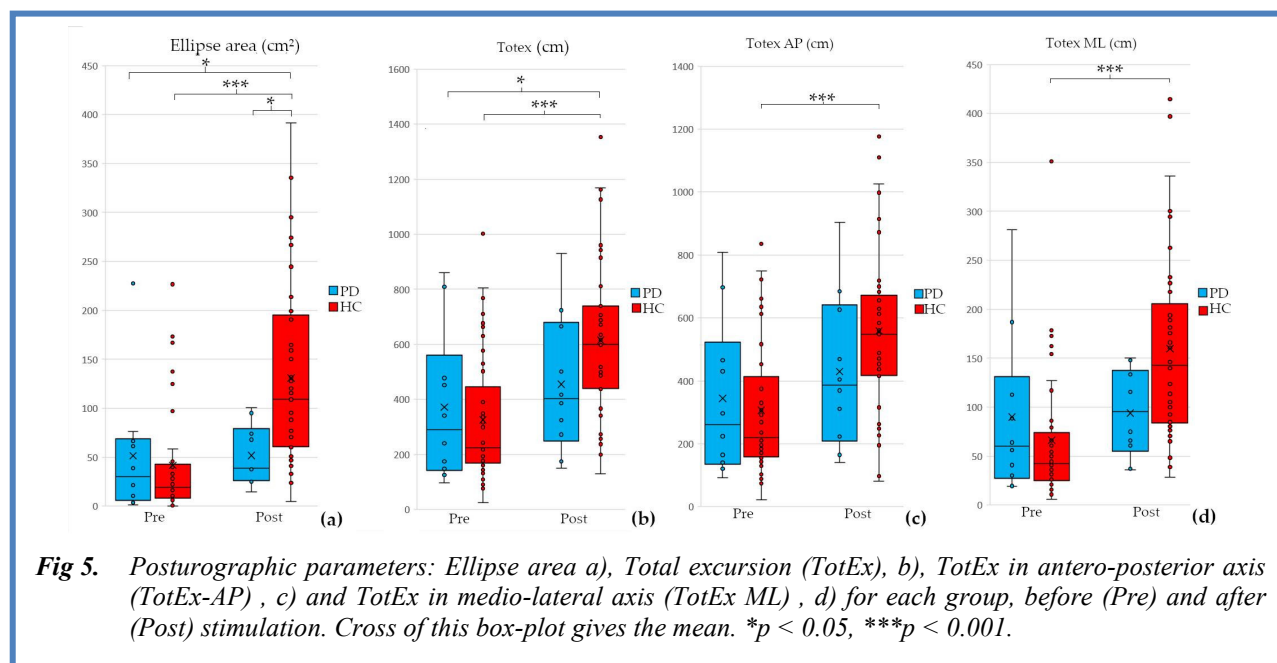
Postural parameters are presented in Figure 5. ANOVA on 95% confidence of ellipse area revealed no group effect, ($F(1,49) = 2.6$, $p = 0.11$) but a condition effect ($F(1,49) = 9.26$, $p = 0.004$) and an interaction effect ($F(1,49) = 9.1$, $p = 0.004$). Post-hoc analysis showed HC had less precise postural control after stimulation ($M = 55.6$, $SD = 70.73$) than before ($M = 46.6$, $SD = 25.6$, $p < 0.001$), than PD before stimulation ($M = 49.8$, $SD = 23.9$, $p = 0.014$) and after stimulation ($M = 49.4$, $SD = 57.2$, $p = 0.015$).

ANOVA on TotEx shows no group effect ($F(1,49) = 0.50$, $p = 0.48$) but a condition effect ($F(1,49) = 17.3$, $p < 0.001$) and an interaction effect ($F(1,49) = 5.35$, $p = 0.02$). Post-hoc analysis shows that HC after stimulation ($M = 487.0$, $SD = 504.0$) are less stable than before stimulation ($M = 326.3$, $SD = 233.1$, $p < 0.001$) than PD

before stimulation ($M = 363.9$, $SD = 277.0$, $p = 0.05$) but not than PD after stimulation ($M = 449.7$, $SD = 469.7$, $p = 0.31$).

At uni-axial TotEx, ANOVA revealed only an effect of condition for the AP axis ($F(1,49) = 15.7$, $p < 0.001$), and a condition effect ($F(1,49) = 15.2$, $p < 0.001$) and an interaction effect ($F(1,49) = 12.8$, $p < 0.001$). However, for both axes, post-hoc analysis revealed a difference only for HC before (AP-axis: $M = 307.1$, $SD = 211.4$, ML axis: $M = 66.2$, $SD = 66.37$) and after stimulation (AP-axis: $M = 455.9$, $SD = 470.0$, $p < 0.001$, ML-axis: $M = 107.8$, $SD = 113.1$, $p < 0.001$). PD patients had a similar stability in both axes before stimulation (AP-axis: $M = 334.7$, $SD = 250.8$, ML axis: $M = 90.1$, $SD = 84.5$) and after (AP-axis: $M = 425.4$, $SD = 2441.0$, ML axis: $M = 91.6$, $SD = 100.5$).

Figure 6 presents the score of the symptom questionnaire. A paired t-test revealed a difference in the symptom questionnaire score in the HC group (Pre: $M = 0.8$, $SD = 1.20$, Post: $M = 2.8$, $SD = 4.50$, $t(53) = 3.42$, $p = 0.001$), but not in the PD group (Pre: $M = 2.1$, $SD = 2.3$, Post: $M = 1.9$, $SD = 3.8$, $t(10) = 0.12$, $p =$



0.9). A Welch test revealed a score significantly higher in PD than HC ($t(63) = 2.7, p = 0.008$) before posturographic assessment, but no significant difference after ($t(63) = 0.62, p = 0.53$).

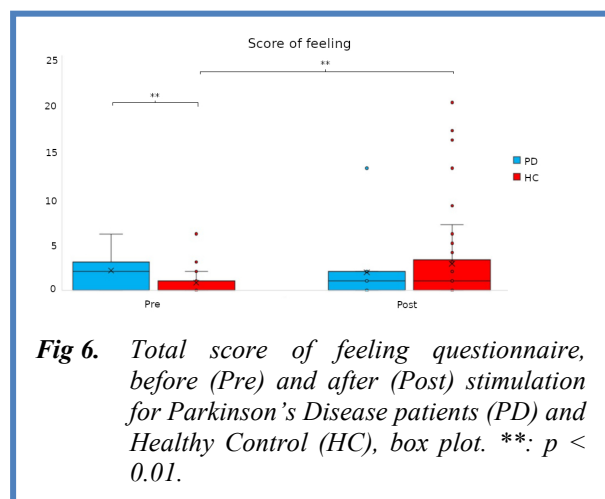
Discussion

This study had two main aims. The first was to assess if PD patients were more susceptible to MS and/or visual dependency, and if age and LED can be a predictor of these susceptibilities. Contrary to our hypothesis, PD patients did not feel subjectively more susceptible than HC in RIMS, or visual dependency. Despite the absence of a difference between PD and HC, LED, which is a specific PD parameter, seems to be a predictor of visual dependency. Age is not a predictor of either susceptibility, and LED is not a predictor of RIMS susceptibility.

The second aim was to assess if a RIMS provoking situation worsened postural control in PD patients more than in HC. Contrary to our hypothesis, the stimulation

seems to provoke RIMS in HC, but not in PD patients. Age seems to have no relationship with RIMS nor visual dependency susceptibility. The influence of age in MS is not clear. On the one hand, some authors think that older people have higher RIMS susceptibility, despite lack of literature, due to avoiding provocative situation behavior.⁴⁴ This hypothesis can be supported by the involvement of sensory deficits, which can worsen RIMS susceptibility,³⁰ while higher proprioceptive weighting allows the decrease of RIMS susceptibility.⁴⁵ Yet, getting older decreases sensory acuity, such as visual acuity, with loss of processing speed, motion discrimination,⁴⁶ vestibular sensory⁴⁷ and somatosensory input,⁴⁸ which could lead to visual dependency. On the other hand, for another authors, aging has not shown the same effect on vestibular stimulation in RIMS and on visual stimulation in VIMS.⁴⁹ RIMS susceptibility begins around age of 5, increases up to around twenty and decreases during adulthood.⁵⁰ This decrease could be due to vestibular acuity decrease that desensitizes sensory conflict. However, this hypothesis cannot explain why, contrary to RIMS, VIMS increases with age.³⁰ Another explanation can be habituation, which is quite specific factor of MS,⁵¹ which can explain VIMS or cybersickness where older people have not often, if ever, experienced VR simulations. PD patients do not seem to be more RIMS susceptible with increasing age, similarly to healthy subjects. Here again, the sensory acuity loss or the habituation can explain these results.

PD patients do not seem to be more susceptible to RIMS than the healthy elderly. All our results point in this direction. PD patients scores of current RIMS susceptibility did not differ to PD patient scores of RIMS susceptibility before disease onset, nor to HC current score. Furthermore, sensory stimulation in the



postural task did not provoke postural instability nor increased feelings of discomfort in PD patients. On the contrary, HC worsened their overall postural performance and precision after stimulation, which reflects postural instability provoked by MS. Furthermore, they felt worse after the postural test. We can note that the effect of stimulation was similar on both axes, and not present only on the ML axis as we hypothesized. HC had no significantly different postural performance after stimulation than PD patients, but their postural control was less precise than PD patients. PD patients are not more motion sick than healthy subjects and did not feel RIMS. We could hypothesize that vestibular and somatosensory stimulation did not perturb PD, as they more rely on visual input to control their posture.²³ Their somatosensory and vestibular inputs are impaired, and PD patients might not feel these stimulations accurately enough to experience completely the boat simulation. Therefore, PD patients did not feel worse after postural task than before. They do not seem to feel VIMS when they have only a visual stimulation during postural recordings. As HC felt worse after rather than before stimulation, the stimulation is MS provocative for susceptible subjects. This absence of MS can be explained because PD vestibular dysfunctions may not be the same dysfunctions that are a RIMS predictive. For example, PD patients have a higher vestibular-ocular reflex gain than healthy subjects,⁵² but this parameter is not a clear predictor of RIMS whereas time constant seems to be,⁵³ but was not studied in PD to our knowledge. Vestibular evoked myogenic potential threshold and asymmetry are also predictors of RIMS, but not amplitude.⁵⁴ However, vestibular evoked myogenic potentials in PD patients showed amplitude abnormalities.¹³ Further studies on these specific parameters need to be conducted. Further studies on MS with BioVRSea on electroencephalographic responses can be interesting to, as in healthy subject, for example to investigate if HC or PD can adapt to this perturbation, as HC know a cortical adaptation during a proprioceptive perturbation,^{55,56} and investigate the effect of vision on this adaptation.⁵⁷

Concerning the relation between MS and medication, LED did not predict RIMS susceptibility. As discussed above, RIMS susceptibility does not seem to be more frequent in PD patients than in HC. Nevertheless, if PD patient scores on the VD questionnaire were not significantly different from the HC score, LED, a PD specific parameter, seems to predict VD score. These results are contradictory. The more intriguing result is the absence of difference in RIMS susceptibility between groups, because PD have a more important visual dependency than healthy subjects.^{16,21,22} These studies highlighted visual dependency in a self-motion perception task or in a task where subjects needed to separate/discriminate target and field to perceive and analyze target, as in a rod and frame test to perceive vertical. However, to our knowledge, no experiments

studied visual dependency as factor of MS in PD. We can hypothesize that visual dependency decreases performance on tasks that need multisensory-integration in the PD group, but is not enough severe to induce a feeling of discomfort in a provocative stimulation. Given this absence of group difference, the relation between LED and the visual dependency score is harder to interpret. If PD patients are globally not more susceptible to VIMS, this susceptibility seems depend on medication. Dopaminergic drugs deteriorate postural stability, especially proprioceptive acuity³⁵ and seem to increase visual dependency. Azulay *et al.* remark visual dependency does not depend on medication,²² but this conclusion is made because he did not see differences in performance before and after taking the drug. Nonetheless, this statement concerns a short-term effect of medication, but did not consider long-term effect of medication. Furthermore, our results are in agreement with Hawkins *et al.* findings, which indicate that LED has an inverse relationship with postural performance in tasks on firm and foam surfaces, with VR-induced visual perturbation,²³ even if this task, as in another studies, assessed visual dependency concerning postural stability, and not directly MS susceptibility.

This study has some limitations. First, our samples have unequal size, especially for postural task. As well as for questionnaire rather than for posturographic assessments, more men than women in PD group are included in our study. Nonetheless, this is representative of gender ratio in PD: men/women with PD is around 2/1.^{58,59} We also note that our visual dependence questionnaire assessed a quite large spectrum of situations that could provoke MS. However, factors which provoke VIMS or RIMS,³⁰ or visual vertigo with large open spaces, are not the same. Our results remain quite broad. Follow-up studies with this questionnaire can specialize this questionnaire to VIMS, or partition their questionnaires to have specific scores. Lastly, in our study, Levodopa is used to reflect disease severity, but our results can be explained by side effects of Levodopa too. Side effects that could affect postural control may include orthostatic hypotension and abnormal movements at the start of treatment (gradual increase in dosage may limit these effects) and alternating involuntary movements and disabling stiffness with prolonged treatment. Rarely, gait disturbance, blurred or double vision and disorientation may occur. Wright *et al.* showed that kinesthetic sensitivity of axial musculature is impaired in PD, especially when using levodopa medication, that contributes to impairment of posture.⁶⁰ In any case, levodopa is the effective therapeutic strategy to overcome the worsening of PD.

In conclusion, this study suggests PD patients have not higher real induced motion sickness susceptibility, but are susceptible to some visual-induced motion sickness provocative situations. This difference can be explained by a high reliance on visual input and a low

performance of vestibular and somatosensory inputs, as well as a potential habituation of provocative stimulations. If stimulation to habituate to a specific disturbing situation can help to desensitize to visual-induced motion sickness, strategies such as practicing physical activities that modify the sensory input hierarchy, increasing somatosensory weighting, could be efficient to decrease visual overreliance and limit this sickness effect that can occur in daily life, as the increased risk of falling.

List of acronyms

AP - antero-posterior
CM - Current MSSQ
CoP - Center of Pressure
HC - Healthy Control
LED - Levodopa Equivalent Dose
M10 - MSSQ 10 years
ML - medio-lateral
MS - motion sickness
MSSQ - Motion Sickness Susceptibility Questionnaire
PD - Parkinson's Disease
RIMS - Real Induced Motion Sickness
TotEx - Total Excursion,
VD - Visual dependence mean score
VIMS - Visual Induced Motion Sickness
VR - virtual reality
VSR - Vestibulo Spinal Reflex

Contributions of Authors

Conceptualization: HP, PG, PP; methodology: HP, PG, PP; software: AP, DJ, RA; validation, AP, DJ, HP, PG, PP; formal analysis: AP, DJ, RA, HP, PG, PP; investigation: SF; resources: AP, DJ, RA, SF; data curation: HP, PG, PP; writing—original draft preparation: AP, DJ, PG, PP; writing—review and editing: AP, DJ, HP, PG, PP; visualization: AP, DJ, RA; supervision: HP, PG, PP; project administration: PG, PP; funding acquisition: PG, PP; All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Data Availability Statement

Requests may be directed to the following clinicians (MD): SF, HP and PP.

Acknowledgments

The authors thank the patients who volunteered for the study.

Funding

A financial support was received from the Métropole du Grand Nancy, Grand Est region, northeastern France. This research was also funded by the Association France Parkinson, an association promoting research and assisting patients.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest. The funders had no role in the design of the study; in the collection, analyses, or interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript, or in the decision to publish the results.

Ethical Publication Statement

We confirm that we have read the Journal's position on issues involved in ethical publication and affirm that this report is consistent with those guidelines.

Corresponding Author

Deborah Jacob, Reykjavik University, Menntavegur 1, 102 Reykjavik, Iceland
ORCID ID: 0000-0003-3507-8003
E-mail: deborah20@ru.is

E-mails and ORCID iD of co-authors

Arthur Petel: arthur.petel@univ-lorraine.fr

ORCID iD: 0000-0003-3120-3268

Romain Aubonnet: romain@ru.is

ORCID iD: 0000-0002-5395-775X

Solène Frismand: s.frismand@chru-nancy.fr

ORCID iD: 0000-0001-7443-1784

Hannes Petersen: hpet@hi.is

ORCID iD: 0000-0002-2327-523X

Paolo Gargiulo: paolo@ru.is

ORCID iD: 0000-0002-5049-4817

Philippe Perrin: philippe.perrin@univ-lorraine.fr

ORCID iD: 0000-0002-4381-0850

References

1. Nashner LM, McCollum G. The organization of human postural movements: A formal basis and experimental synthesis. Behavioral and Brain Sciences. Cambridge University Press; 1985; 8(1):135–150.
2. Mian TS. An Unsupervised Neural Network Feature Selection and 1D Convolution Neural Network Classification for Screening of Parkinsonism. Diagnostics (Basel). 2022 Jul 25;12(8):1796. doi: 10.3390/diagnostics12081796.
3. Colnat-Coulbois S, Gauchard GC, Maillard L, Barroche G, Vespignani H, Auque J, Perrin PP. Bilateral subthalamic nucleus stimulation improves balance control in Parkinson's disease. J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry. 2005 Jun;76(6):780–7. doi: 10.1136/jnnp.2004.047829.
4. Nallegowda M, Singh U, Handa G, Khanna M, Wadhwa S, Yadav SL, Kumar G, Behari M. Role of sensory input and muscle strength in maintenance of balance, gait, and posture in Parkinson's disease: a pilot study. Am J Phys Med Rehabil. 2004 Dec;33(12):898-908. doi: 10.1097/01.phm.0000146505.18244.43.
5. Horak FB, Frank J, Nutt J. Effects of dopamine on postural control in parkinsonian subjects: scaling,

Motion sickness susceptibility in Parkinson's disease

Eur J Transl Myol 32 (4): 10884, 2022 doi: 10.4081/ejtm.2022.10884

- set, and tone. *J Neurophysiol.* 1996 Jun;75(6): 2380-96. doi: 10.1152/jn.1996.75.6. 2380.
6. Zia S, Cody F, O'Boyle D. Joint position sense is impaired by Parkinson's disease. *Ann Neurol.* 2000;47(2):218–28.
 7. Maschke M, Gomez CM, Tuite PJ, Konczak J. Dysfunction of the basal ganglia, but not the cerebellum, impairs kinaesthesia. *Brain.* 2003 Oct;126(Pt 10):2312-22. doi: 10.1093/brain/awg230. Epub 2003 Jun 23.
 8. Teasdale H, Preston E, Waddington G. Proprioception of the Ankle is Impaired in People with Parkinson's Disease. *Mov Disord Clin Pract.* 2017 Mar 29;4(4):524-528. doi: 10.1002/mdc3.12464.
 9. Konczak J, Corcos DM, Horak F, Poizner H, Shapiro M, Tuite P, Volkmann J, Maschke M. Proprioception and motor control in Parkinson's disease. *J Mot Behav.* 2009 Nov;41(6):543-52. doi: 10.3200/35-09-002.
 10. Vaugoyeau M, Viel S, Assaiante C, Amblard B, Azulay JP. Impaired vertical postural control and proprioceptive integration deficits in Parkinson's disease. *Neuroscience.* 2007 May 11;146(2):852-63. doi: 10.1016/j.neuroscience.2007.01.052. Epub 2007 Mar 23.
 11. Smith PF. Vestibular Functions and Parkinson's Disease. *Front Neurol.* 2018 Dec 11;9:1085. doi: 10.3389/fneur.2018.01085.
 12. Pastor MA, Day BL, Marsden CD. Vestibular induced postural responses in Parkinson's disease. *Brain.* 1993 Oct;116 (Pt 5):1177-90. doi: 10.1093/brain/116.5.1177.
 13. de Natale ER, Ginatempo F, Paulus KS, Pes GM, Manca A, Tolu E, Agnetti V, Deriu F. Abnormalities of vestibular-evoked myogenic potentials in idiopathic Parkinson's disease are associated with clinical evidence of brainstem involvement. *Neurol Sci.* 2015 Jun;36(6):995-1001. doi: 10.1007/s10072-014-2054-4. Epub 2015 Jan 8.
 14. Bertolini G, Wicki A, Baumann CR, Straumann D, Palla A. Impaired tilt perception in Parkinson's disease: a central vestibular integration failure. *PLoS One.* 2015 Apr 15;10(4):e0124253. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0124253.
 15. Davidsdottir S, Cronin-Golomb A, Lee A. Visual and spatial symptoms in Parkinson's disease. *Vision Res.* 2005 May;45(10):1285-96. doi: 10.1016/j.visres.2004.11.006. Epub 2004 Dec 16.
 16. Halperin O, Israeli-Korn S, Yakubovich S, Hassin-Baer S, Zaidel A. Self-motion perception in Parkinson's disease. *Eur J Neurosci.* 2021 Apr;53(7):2376-2387. doi: 10.1111/ejn.14716. Epub 2020 Mar 20.
 17. Colnat-Coulbois S, Gauchard GC, Maillard L, Barroche G, Vespignani H, Auque J, Perrin PP. Management of postural sensory conflict and dynamic balance control in late-stage Parkinson's disease. *Neuroscience.* 2011 Oct 13;193:363-9. doi: 10.1016/j.neuroscience.2011.04.043. Epub 2011 May 27.
 18. Hwang S, Agada P, Grill S, Kiemel T, Jeka JJ. A central processing sensory deficit with Parkinson's disease. *Exp Brain Res.* 2016 Aug;234(8):2369-79. doi: 10.1007/s00221-016-4642-4. Epub 2016 Apr 8.
 19. Halperin O, Karni R, Israeli-Korn S, Hassin-Baer S, Zaidel A. Overconfidence in visual perception in parkinson's disease. *Eur J Neurosci.* 2021 Mar;53(6):2027-2039. doi: 10.1111/ejn.15093. Epub 2021 Jan 12.
 20. Barnett-Cowan M, Dyde RT, Fox SH, Moro E, Hutchison WD, Harris LR. Multisensory determinants of orientation perception in Parkinson's disease. *Neuroscience.* 2010 Jun 2;167(4):1138-50. doi: 10.1016/j.neuroscience.2010.02.065. Epub 2010 Mar 4.
 21. Yakubovich S, Israeli-Korn S, Halperin O, Yahalom G, Hassin-Baer S, Zaidel A. Visual self-motion cues are impaired yet overweighted during visual-vestibular integration in Parkinson's disease. *Brain Commun.* 2020 Mar 31;2(1):fcaa035. doi: 10.1093/braincomms/fcaa035.
 22. Azulay JP, Mesure S, Amblard B, Pouget J. Increased visual dependence in Parkinson's disease. *Percept Mot Skills.* 2002 Dec;95(3 Pt 2):1106-14. doi: 10.2466/pms.2002.95.3f.1106.
 23. Hawkins KE, Paul SS, Chiarovano E, Curthoys IS. Using virtual reality to assess vestibulo-visual interaction in people with Parkinson's disease compared to healthy controls. *Exp Brain Res.* 2021 Dec;239(12):3553-64. doi: 10.1007/s00221-021-06219-0. Epub 2021 Sep 25.
 24. Kohl RL. Sensory conflict theory of space motion sickness: an anatomical location for the neuroconflict. *Aviat Space Environ Med.* 1983 May;54(5):464-5.
 25. Reason JT, Brand JJ. Motion sickness. Oxford, England: Academic Press; 1975. 310 p.
 26. Reason JT. Motion sickness—some theoretical considerations. *Int J Man Mach Stud.* 1969 Jan;1(1):21–38 doi: 10.1016/S0020-7373(69)80009-X.
 27. McCauley ME, Sharkey TJ. Cybersickness: Perception of Self-Motion in Virtual Environments. *Presence Teleoperators Virtual Environ.* 1992 Aug 1;1(3):311–8. doi: 10.1162/pres.1992.1.3.311
 28. Oman CM. A heuristic mathematical model for the dynamics of sensory conflict and motion sickness. *Acta Otolaryngol Suppl.* 1982;392:1-44.
 29. Riccio GE, Stoffregen TA. An ecological Theory of Motion Sickness and Postural Instability. *Ecol Psychol.* 1991 Sep;3(3):195–240.

30. Mittelstaedt JM. Individual predictors of the susceptibility for motion-related sickness: A systematic review. *J Vestib Res.* 2020;30(3):165-193. doi: 10.3233/VES-200702.
31. Barone P, Antonini A, Colosimo C, Marconi R, Morgante L, Avarello TP, Bottacchi E, Cannas A, Ceravolo G, Ceravolo R, Cicarelli G, Gaglio RM, Giglia RM, Iemolo F, Manfredi M, Meco G, Nicoletti A, Pederzoli M, Petrone A, Pisani A, Pontieri FE, Quatrone R, Ramat S, Scala R, Volpe G, Zappulla S, Bentivoglio AR, Stocchi F, Trianni G, Dotto PD; PRIAMO study group. The PRIAMO study: A multicenter assessment of nonmotor symptoms and their impact on quality of life in Parkinson's disease. *Mov Disord.* 2009 Aug 15;24(11):1641-9. doi: 10.1002/mds.22643.
32. Chaudhuri KR, Odin P, Antonini A, Martinez-Martin P. Parkinson's disease: the non-motor issues. *Parkinsonism Relat Disord.* 2011 Dec;17(10):717-23. doi: 10.1016/j.parkreldis.2011.02.018. Epub 2011 Jul 8.
33. Alexander NB. Postural control in older adults. *J Am Geriatr Soc.* 1994 Jan;42(1):93-108. doi: 10.1111/j.1532-5415.1994.tb06081.x.
34. Bloem BR, Beckley DJ, van Dijk JG, Zwiderman AH, Remler MP, Roos RA. Influence of dopaminergic medication on automatic postural responses and balance impairment in Parkinson's disease. *Mov Disord.* 1996 Sep;11(5):509-21. doi: 10.1002/mds.870110506.
35. O'Suilleabhain P, Bullard J, Dewey RB. Proprioception in Parkinson's disease is acutely depressed by dopaminergic medications. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry.* 2001 Nov;71(5):607-10. doi: 10.1136/jnnp.71.5.607.
36. Bronte-Stewart HM, Minn AY, Rodrigues K, Buckley EL, Nashner LM. Postural instability in idiopathic Parkinson's disease: the role of medication and unilateral pallidotomy. *Brain.* 2002 Sep;125(Pt 9):2100-14. doi: 10.1093/brain/awf207.
37. Recenti M, Ricciardi C, Aubonnet R, Picone I, Jacob D, Svansson HÁR, Agnarsdóttir S, Karlsson GH, Baeringsdóttir V, Petersen H, Gargiulo P. Toward Predicting Motion Sickness Using Virtual Reality and a Moving Platform Assessing Brain, Muscles, and Heart Signals. *Front Bioeng Biotechnol.* 2021 Apr 1;9:635661. doi: 10.3389/fbioe.2021.635661.
38. Jacob D, Unnsteinsdóttir Kristensen IS, Aubonnet R, Recenti M, Donisi L, Ricciardi C, Svansson HÁR, Agnarsdóttir S, Colacino A, Jónsdóttir MK, Kristjánsdóttir H, Sigurjónsdóttir HÁ, Cesarelli M, Eggertsdóttir Claessen LÓ, Hassan M, Petersen H, Gargiulo P. Towards defining biomarkers to evaluate concussions using virtual reality and a moving platform (BioVRSea). *Sci Rep.* 2022 May 30;12(1):8996. doi: 10.1038/s41598-022-12822-0.
39. Golding JF. Predicting individual differences in motion sickness susceptibility by questionnaire. *Personal Individ Differ.* 2006 Jul;41(2):237-48. doi: 10.1016/j.paid.2006.01.012
40. Bosser G, Caillet G, Gauchard G, Marçon F, Perrin P. Relation between motion sickness susceptibility and vasovagal syncope susceptibility. *Brain Res Bull.* 2006 Jan 15;68(4):217-26. doi: 10.1016/j.brainresbull.2005.05.031. Epub 2005 Nov 2.
41. Longridge NS, Mallinson AI. Visual vestibular mismatch in work-related vestibular injury. *Otol Neurotol.* 2005 Jul;26(4):691-4. doi: 10.1097/01.mao.0000169637.71064.c6.
42. Hoehn MM, Yahr MD. Parkinsonism: onset, progression and mortality. *Neurology.* 1967 May;17(5):427-42. doi: 10.1212/wnl.17.5.427.
43. Jones JA, Swan JE, Singh G, Kolstad E, Ellis SR. The effects of virtual reality, augmented reality, and motion parallax on egocentric depth perception. *Proc 5th Symp Appl Percept Graph Vis.* 2008;9-14.
44. Golding JF. Motion sickness susceptibility. *Auton Neurosci.* 2006 Oct;129(1-2):67-76. doi: 10.1016/j.paid.2006.01.012
45. Caillet G, Bosser G, Gauchard GC, Chau N, Benamghar L, Perrin PP. Effect of sporting activity practice on susceptibility to motion sickness. *Brain Res Bull.* 2006 Apr 14;69(3):288-93. doi: 10.1016/j.brainresbull.2006.01.001. Epub 2006 Jan 19.
46. Owsley C. Aging and vision. *Vision Res.* 2011;51(13):1610-22. doi: 10.1016/j.visres.2010.10.020
47. Zalewski CK. Aging of the Human Vestibular System. *Semin Hear.* 2015 Aug;36(3):175-96. doi: 10.1055/s-0035-1555120.
48. Goble DJ, Coxon JP, Wenderoth N, Van Impe A, Swinnen SP. Proprioceptive sensibility in the elderly: degeneration, functional consequences and plastic-adaptive processes. *Neurosci Biobehav Rev.* 2009 Mar;33(3):271-8. doi: 10.1016/j.neubio rev.2008.08.012. Epub 2008 Aug 26.
49. Arns LL, Cerney MM. The relationship between age and incidence of cybersickness among immersive environment users. In: *IEEE Proceedings VR 2005 Virtual Reality, 2005.* 2005. p. 267-8.
50. Bos JE, Damala D, Lewis C, Ganguly A, Turan O. Susceptibility to seasickness. *Ergonomics.* 2007 Jun;50(6):890-901.
51. Turner M, Griffin MJ. Motion sickness in public road transport: The relative importance of motion, vision and individual differences. *Br J Psychol.* 1999;90(4):519-30. doi: 10.1348/000712699161594
52. Lv W, Guan Q, Hu X, Chen J, Jiang H, Zhang L, Fan W. Vestibulo-ocular reflex abnormality in

- Parkinson's disease detected by video head impulse test. *Neurosci Lett*. 2017 Sep 14;657:211-214. doi: 10.1016/j.neulet.2017.08.021. Epub 2017 Aug 12.
53. Clément G, Reschke MF. Relationship between motion sickness susceptibility and vestibulo-ocular reflex gain and phase. *J Vestib Res*. 2018;28(3-4):295-304. doi: 10.3233/VES-180632.
 54. Singh NK, Pandey P, Mahesh S. Assessment of otolith function using cervical and ocular vestibular evoked myogenic potentials in individuals with motion sickness. *Ergonomics*. 2014;57(12):1907-18. doi: 10.1080/00140139.2014.952683. Epub 2014 Sep 15.
 55. Edmunds KJ, Petersen H, Hassan M, Yassine S, Olivieri A, Barollo F, Friðriksdóttir R, Edmunds P, Gíslason MK, Fratini A, Gargiulo P. Cortical recruitment and functional dynamics in postural control adaptation and habituation during vibratory proprioceptive stimulation. *J Neural Eng*. 2019 Apr;16(2):026037. doi: 10.1088/1741-2552/ab0678. Epub 2019 Feb 12.
 56. Barollo F, Friðriksdóttir R, Edmunds KJ, Karlsson GH, Svansson HA, Hassan M, Fratini A, Petersen H, Gargiulo P. Postural Control Adaptation and Habituation During Vibratory Proprioceptive Stimulation: An HD-EEG Investigation of Cortical Recruitment and Kinematics. *IEEE Trans Neural Syst Rehabil Eng*. 2020 Jun;28(6):1381-1388. doi: 10.1109/TNSRE.2020.2988585. Epub 2020 Apr 17.
 57. Barollo F, Hassan M, Petersen H, Rigoni I, Ramon C, Gargiulo P, Fratini A. Cortical Pathways During Postural Control: New Insights From Functional EEG Source Connectivity. *IEEE Trans Neural Syst Rehabil Eng*. 2022;30:72-84. doi: 10.1109/TNSRE.2022.3140888. Epub 2022 Jan 28.
 58. Baldereschi M, Di Carlo A, Rocca WA, Vanni P, Maggi S, Perissinotto E, Grigoletto F, Amaducci L, Inzitari D. Parkinson's disease and parkinsonism in a longitudinal study: two-fold higher incidence in men. ILSA Working Group. Italian Longitudinal Study on Aging. *Neurology*. 2000 Nov 14;55(9):1358-63. doi: 10.1212/wnl.55.9.1358.
 59. Jurado-Coronel JC, Cabezas R, Ávila Rodríguez MF, Echeverría V, García-Segura LM, Barreto GE. Sex differences in Parkinson's disease: Features on clinical symptoms, treatment outcome, sexual hormones and genetics. *Front Neuroendocrinol*. 2018 Jul;50:18-30. doi: 10.1016/j.yfrne.2017.09.002. Epub 2017 Sep 30.
 60. Wright WG, Gurfinkel VS, King LA, Nutt JG, Cordo PJ, Horak FB. Axial kinesthesia is impaired in Parkinson's disease: effects of levodopa. *Exp Neurol*. 2010 Sep;225(1):202-9. doi: 10.1016/j.expneurol.2010.06.016. Epub 2010 Jul 1.

Disclaimer

All claims expressed in this article are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of their affiliated organizations, or those of the publisher, the editors and the reviewers. Any product that may be evaluated in this article or claim that may be made by its manufacturer is not guaranteed or endorsed by the publisher.

Submission: September 21, 2022

Revision received: October 06, 2022

Accepted for publication: October 06, 2022