Global Coherence and Cognition in Parkinson's Disease

**Abstract**

*Purpose:* This study compared global coherence (GC) in individuals with Parkinson’s disease (PD) to a healthy older adult (HOA) group during single (sitting) and dual (stationary cycling) tasks. We additionally explored the relationship between GC and cognition in PD.

*Conclusions:* Individuals with PD demonstrated greater impoverishment of GC than HOAs. A range of cognitive processes potentially subserve strong topic maintenance in PD, possibly because topic maintenance is taxing and therefore requires more cognitive resources. Analysis of GC should be considered an informative addition to cognitive-linguistic assessment in PD.

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Effects of a Cycling Dual-Task on Emotional Word Choice in Parkinson’s Disease

**Abstract**

*Purpose:* Individuals with Parkinson’s disease (PD) demonstrate language- and emotion-related impairments; however, emotional language production has received little attention within the literature despite that deficits could significantly impact one’s daily interactions with loved ones and others. Multitasking (i.e., dual-tasking), specifically while completing language tasks, is a common everyday occurrence and typically impacts performance on one or both tasks. This study compared emotional word use during discourse production in individuals with PD and healthy older adults (HOAs) under single- and dual-task conditions.

*Conclusions:* These results suggest that cycling, like other types of exercise, improves mood as manifested in discourse word choice in HOAs; however, it may lead to reduced use of emotional words in individuals with PD. Expressing emotion may also be more difficult in PD than in HOAs and, therefore, easily disrupted in distracting circumstances.