Reduced Autonomic Activity in Parkinson Disease Patients

To the Editor:

Scigliano et al report that reduced risk factors for vascular disorders in Parkinson disease patients may be attributed to reduced autonomic activity, suggesting that autonomic hyperactivity may be involved in the pathogenesis of vascular disorders. Neurobiological features are demonstrated by the association of reduction of blood pressure with longer, less recurrent speech hesitation pauses of $\approx 2$ seconds. These responses are linked to rhythmic and prefrontal cortical modulation of dopamine, regulating brain stem cardiovascular control and coping behavior. Matching speech hesitation pauses in spontaneous dialogs is a joint, mutually responsive rhythm with prelinguistic origins. These findings support auditory training of small steps to neuroplasticity with a lasting benefit in adults and provide precise methods to monitor incremental dopaminergic treatment that Parkinsonians may receive for their disease to prevent a major increase in cerebrovascular disorders.

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