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Clinical trials on Parkinson's disease

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Parkinson's disease (PD) is a clinical syndrome characterised by combination of rigidity, bradykinesia, tremors, postural instability that can occur for variety of reasons but usually idiopathic. Current available modality of treating for PD are Levodopa, Dopamine receptor agonists, MAO B inhibitors, COMT inhibitors, Apomorphine, Amantidine, Acetylcholine blocking agents and Surgical procedures. Currently, there are two categories of therapies, symptomatic and neuroprotective, which are making their way through the Parkinson's pipeline. Drugs which entered the market recently are either for use in Parkinson's or for treating some other conditions, are now being studied for treating additional Parkinson's symptoms like-Rasagiline, Naltrexone (compulsive gambling or shopping), Rivastigmine, Lubiprostone (for alleviating constipation), Donepezil. In the symptomatic therapy category: intraduodenal levodopa, safinamide (MAO inhibitors), istradefylline (adenosine agonist), pimavanserin, and pitolisant are under phase III trials, whereas in the neuroprotective category there are 2 drugs: Coenzyme Q10(CoQ10), and creatine. In Phase II of clinical trials, four symptomatic therapies namely Pardoprunox, Fipamezole, Prosavin (gene therapy), AFQ056 and four neuroprotective drugs namely isradipine (Ca channel blocker), CERE-120 (AAV neuruturin), urate and PYM50028 are under study. Drugs targeting proteins produced by genes alphasynuclein and LRRK2, drugs reducing inflammation in the brain, use of growth factors and neuroregenerative approach are few of the neuroprotective strategies which are in preclinical discovery phase. Drugs most likely to emerge soon from the pipeline are symptomatic treatment drugs that have been studied the longest (in Phase II and Phase III trials). Within about three years, the hope is that modestly effective neuroprotective therapies -CoQ10, creatine or isradipine will be approved. While we can't say now exactly what's next, we can be optimistic at the level and type of research ongoing for Parkinson's, all of which aims to improve and perhaps more importantly, reverse the course of Parkinson's for all of those living with the disease.

Biography

Manjunath H has completed his MBBS from SS Institute of Medical science and Research Centre, Davangere and is now pursuing his PG in Pharmacology in JJM Medical Davangere. At present he is involved in three research paper.

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