



Letter to the Editor

Prospective memory impairment in idiopathic REM sleep behavior disorder



To the Editor

We read with interest the recent paper by Li et al. [1], on the prospective memory (PM) impairment in idiopathic REM sleep behavior disorder (iRBD). We appreciate the findings of the study. However, we have a few critical comments on it.

First, we have some concerns regarding the tools that were used in the study. Especially, it appears that the PM tool (The Cambridge Prospective Memory Test; CAMPROMPT) was not properly validated in the Chinese population [1,2], which may have influenced the results of the study and was done in the previous studies [3,4].

Second, the authors state that “to the best of our knowledge, no study has investigated prospective memory (PM) dysfunction in patients with iRBD.” However, the authors did not take into account two studies already available that focused directly on PM impairment in iRBD, published online in October 2017 [4] and in February 2018 [5], respectively.

Consequently, the authors did not address the results of the previous studies. For example, when discussing the role of prefrontal dopaminergic depletion on PM impairment “Reduced efficiency of the prefrontal-striatal loops may cause PM impairments, and administration of L-dopa significantly improved ... accuracy in retrieving the prospective intention ...” [1], they did not take into account the significant correlation found between the reduction in striatal ¹²³I-Ioflupane uptake indices and the time-based PM but not event-based PM [4]. These results suggest that nigrostriatal degeneration indeed does not have a role in event-based PM, but it may affect the performance of time-based PM task.

Most important, despite above-mentioned limitations, the main finding of the current work, ie, significant impairment of event-based PM in iRBD patients, replicate previous results described in different populations. In conclusion, event-based PM deficit thus appears to be a consistent abnormality in iRBD heralding a dysfunction in the executive domain.

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Conflict of interest

The ICMJE Uniform Disclosure Form for Potential Conflicts of Interest associated with this article can be viewed by clicking on the following link: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sleep.2018.11.015>.

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