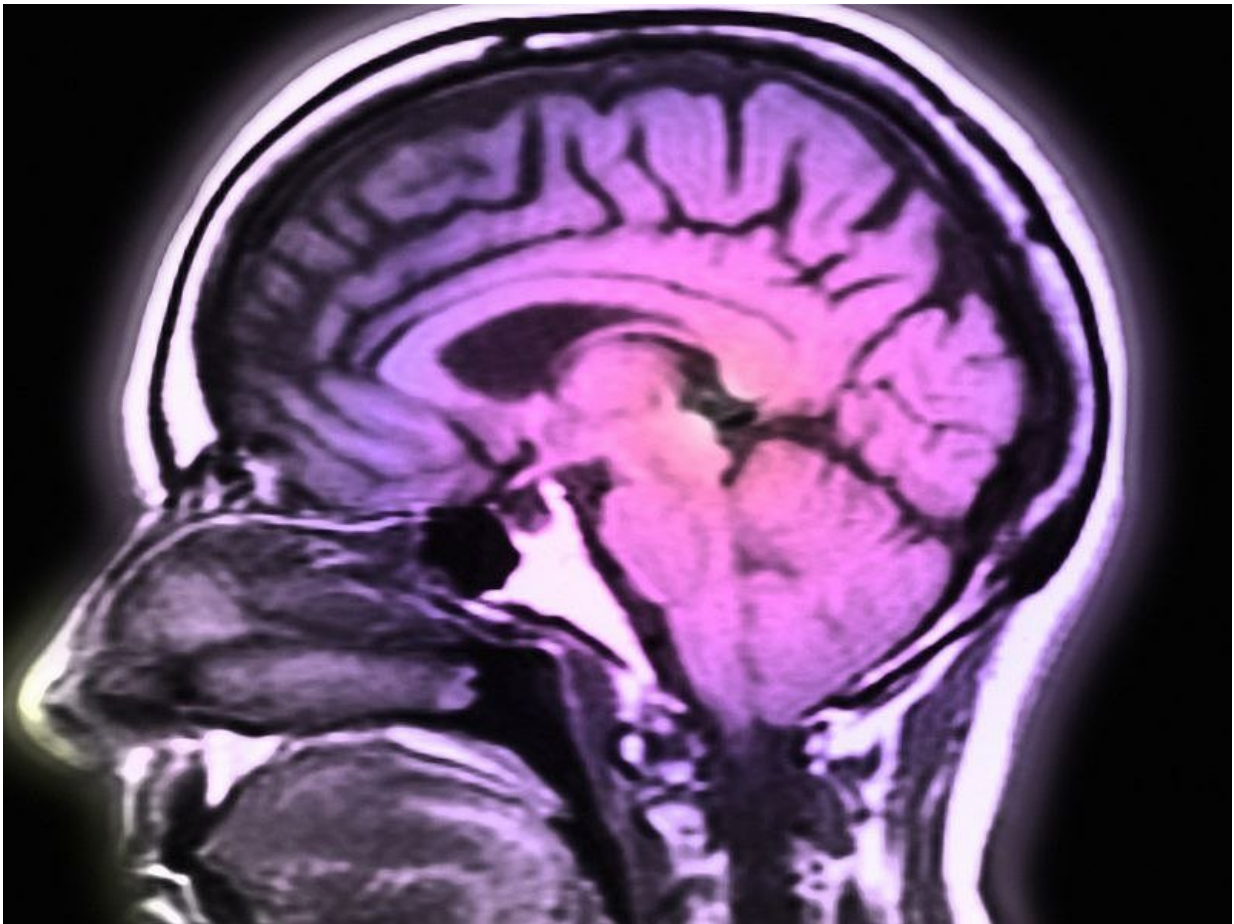


# Cognitive status doesn't impact cortical A-beta, tau in Parkinson's

December 12 2017

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(HealthDay)—Patterns of cortical  $\beta$ -amyloid ( $A\beta$ ) and tau are not

different for patients with Parkinson's disease (PD) who are cognitively normal (PD-CN) or with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and for healthy adults, according to a study published online Dec. 11 in *JAMA Neurology*.

Joseph R. Winer, from the University of California in Berkeley, and colleagues conducted a cross-sectional study involving 29 patients with PD (15 with PD-CN and 14 with PD-MCI) and 49 healthy controls to compare tau positron emission tomographic (PET) measurements.

The researchers found that six PD patients were A $\beta$ -positive, of whom one had PD-MCI, and 23 patients were A $\beta$ -negative. There were no significant differences in voxel-wise contrasts of whole-brain tau PET uptake between patients with PD-CN and PD-MCI, or for all patients with PD versus A $\beta$ -negative controls. There were no differences in tau PET binding between patients with PD-MCI and PC-CN in [brain regions](#) reflecting Alzheimer's disease Braak stages 1/2, 3/4, or 5/6, nor was there any difference from A $\beta$ -negative healthy older adults. In A $\beta$ -positive patients with PD there was significantly elevated tau PET binding relative to A $\beta$ -negative patients with PD within brain regions reflecting Alzheimer's disease Braak stage 3/4 and Braak stage 5/6.

"Age, A $\beta$ , and tau do not differentiate [patients](#) with PD-CN and PD-MCI," the authors write. "Cognitive deficits in people with PD without dementia do not appear to reflect measureable Alzheimer disease."

Two authors disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry; Avid Radiopharmaceuticals enabled use of the [ $^{18}\text{F}$ ] AV-1451 tracer.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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