

Clinical validation of inertial sensing-based wearable device for tremor and Bradykinesia quantification

September 2 2020, by Zhang Nannan



ISWD for the quantification of Parkinsonian tremors and bradykinesia. Credit: Prof. DAI's group

Parkinson's disease (PD) is characterized by motor symptoms such as tremor, rigidity, bradykinesia, and problems with gait. However, neurologists judge the severity of Parkinsonian motor symptoms

according to clinical scales, and their judgments are inconsistent because of differences in clinical experiences.

Nowadays, with the rapid development of micro-electromechanical systems sensor technology and population aging around the globe, inertial sensing-based wearable devices (ISWDs), have tended to obtain the accurate and objective [assessment](#) of PD [motor symptoms](#).

In order to investigate the effectiveness ISWDs for Parkinsonian symptoms quantification, a research team led by Prof. Dai Houde from the Fujian Institute of Research on the Structure of Matter of the Chinese Academy of Sciences carried out a systematic investigation for the performance evaluation of the ISWD outputs. Relevant study was published in IEEE Journal of Biomedical and Health Informatics.

The researchers found that inconsistency existed among the judgments of neurologists, while the quantification performance (sensitivity, specificity, and accuracy) of ISWD were better than the neurologists.

For the assessment scales other than MDS-UPDRS, the proposed method in this study is valid as long as there is a quantitative parameter for each assessment task.

They improved the performance of ISWDs with more accurate labels, i.e., ground truths, from high-precision 6-axis motion tracking systems such as an electromagnetic tracking system (EMTS), instead of only via the advanced algorithms such as machine learning and deep learning.

In addition, this EMTS can be regarded as a training tool for improving the diagnostic skills of young neurologists.

The study demonstrated that the ISWDs can not only offer physicians effective help for an accurate assessment of the bradykinesia severity,

but also serve as a self-monitor setting at home for the patients themselves.

More information: Houde Dai et al. Validation of Inertial Sensing-based Wearable Device for Tremor and Bradykinesia Quantification, *IEEE Journal of Biomedical and Health Informatics* (2020). [DOI: 10.1109/JBHI.2020.3009319](https://doi.org/10.1109/JBHI.2020.3009319)

Provided by Chinese Academy of Sciences

Citation: Clinical validation of inertial sensing-based wearable device for tremor and Bradykinesia quantification (2020, September 2) retrieved 3 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-09-clinical-validation-inertial-sensing-based-wearable.html>

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