

Convincing evidence that type 2 diabetes is associated with increased risk of Parkinson's

March 8 2021



Immunohistochemistry for alpha-synuclein showing positive staining (brown) of an intraneural Lewy-body in the Substantia nigra in Parkinson's disease. Credit: Wikipedia

Research from Queen Mary University of London has concluded that

there is convincing evidence that type 2 diabetes is associated with an increased risk of Parkinson's disease. The same study found that there was also evidence that type 2 diabetes may contribute to faster disease progression in patients who already have Parkinson's.

Treating people with drugs already available for type 2 [diabetes](#) may reduce the risk and slow the progression of Parkinson's. Screening for and early treatment of type 2 diabetes in patients with Parkinson's may be advisable.

Previous systematic reviews and meta-analyses have produced conflicting results around the link between diabetes and the risk of Parkinson's disease. This new study, published in the *Movement Disorders Journal*, used meta-analysis of observational data and meta-analysis of genetic data to evaluate the effect of type 2 diabetes on risk and progression of Parkinson's [disease](#).

Corresponding author Dr. Alastair Noyce from Queen Mary University of London said: "This research brings together the results from many other studies to provide convincing evidence that type 2 diabetes likely affects not only Parkinson's risk, but also Parkinson's progression. There are many treatment strategies for type 2 diabetes, including prevention strategies, which may be re-purposed for the treatment of Parkinson's."

More information: Harneek Chohan et al, Type 2 Diabetes as a Determinant of Parkinson's Disease Risk and Progression, *Movement Disorders* (2021). [DOI: 10.1002/mds.28551](https://doi.org/10.1002/mds.28551)

Provided by Queen Mary, University of London

Citation: Convincing evidence that type 2 diabetes is associated with increased risk of

Parkinson's (2021, March 8) retrieved 25 April 2024 from
<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-03-convincing-evidence-diabetes-parkinson.html>

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