Cover Letter

Dear Editors,

It is with great pleasure that we submit to you results from an anonymous online survey with Parkinson´s disease (PD) at an early stage of the pandemic and with respect to their care before its onset.

heterogeneous clinical presentation of PD leads to healthcare during illness. The COVID-19 pandemic, has added to the scarcity of health resources, vulnerable groups, such as person´s with PD. has not yet been investigated who was particularly affected at early stages of the pandemic, this when vaccinations were not yet available. In this study combined the idea of the so called social determinants of health individual and structural barriers in access to health care for German PD-patients’ By means of a Generalized Linear model (GLM), we could delineate significant predictors for 551 filled out questionnaires. While satisfaction for PD-related care significantly decreased during the pandemic, our data indicates factors such as educational level, perceived expertise of healthcare providers, confidence in remote care, perceived ease of obtaining healthcare and the ability to access care prior to the pandemic, the density of neurologists within the area of living and the ability to overcome barriers as indicative of higher odds to perceive unmet needs during the pandemic. Our data can help to understand which patients need special attention in future Covid-19 outbreaks. At the same time, there is the potential to extrapolate the results to the general population and to the broader question of where limited healthcare resources should be allocated to target the best possible care for PD patients.

The manuscript was prepared according to the Journal’s Instructions for Authors and is submitted online. All Co-authors have seen and agree with the contents of this manuscript. The material in the manuscript has not been published before and is not being considered for publication elsewhere. We hope that you find our manuscript sufficiently stimulating and worthy of publication in your journal.

Yours sincerely,

D. Pedrosa, M.D., on behalf of all co-authors