ITALIAN Olfactory IDENTIFICATION TEST (IOIT): A NEW Olfactive TEST FOR ITALIAN POPULATION. RESULTS IN PATIENTS WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE

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Introduction: A deficit in the olfactory function is not a rare clinical condition in general population. This olfactory impairment is far more frequent and marked in patient with Parkinson's disease (PD) and it's often clear even in the first stages of the disease, too.

Objectives: Almost all the olfactive tests now available have been developed out of Italy, and for this reason they aren't fit to Italian population for cultural and geographical reasons. Our objective was to create a new olfactive test to meet this need and administer it to a population of PD patients and healthy subjects.

Methods: Our olfactive test (IOIT) can be prepared with a number of smells between 25 and 45. For our research on PD patients we used 33 smells. The test was administered to 133 PD patients (50 F e 83 M) and to 511 healthy subjects (257 F e 254 M). We demonstrated the validity of our test also in reliability trials within the control population.

Results: The results show that, as already known from other works, olfactive performances of PD patients are clearly worse than those of healthy controls matched by sex and age groups 50-59y, 60-69y, 70-79y (p< 0.0001 in all age groups).

Conclusions: IOIT proved to be an olfactive test suitable for Italian population. It also showed a good reliability in demonstrating olfactive deficits in neurodegenerative diseases like Parkinson's disease.