

**VA**

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration  
Parkinson's Disease Research,  
Education & Clinical Centers**NATIONAL VA PARKINSON'S DISEASE****C O N S O R T I U M***Education · Collaboration · Advocacy*

# THE TRANSMITTER

*July 2024*

## Article Reviews

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### **Trial of Lixisenatide in Early Parkinson's Disease**

This report describes a phase 2 clinical trial, called the LIXIPARK trial, which investigated the effectiveness of lixisenatide, a glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist commonly used to treat type 2 diabetes, in individuals with early-stage Parkinson's disease. The researchers found that, compared to placebo, lixisenatide modestly slowed the progression of motor disability over twelve months in participants already receiving standard Parkinson's medications. An important caveat of the study is that patients were tested at baseline and one year in the ON medication state, which arguably does not demonstrate true disease modification as opposed to efficacy as an adjunctive therapy. Lixisenatide treatment was also associated with a higher incidence of gastrointestinal side effects, primarily nausea and vomiting. While these initial results are promising, the study authors emphasize the need for larger trials of longer duration to confirm the long-term efficacy and safety of lixisenatide for Parkinson's treatment.

*N Engl J Med* . 2024 Apr 4;390(13):1176-1185. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa2312323.

[Trial of Lixisenatide in Early Parkinson's Disease | New England Journal of Medicine \(nejm.org\)](#)

### **Efficacy and Safety of DaxibotulinumtoxinA for Injection in Cervical Dystonia ASPEN-1 Phase 3 Randomized Controlled Trial**

This article presents the findings of ASPEN-1, a phase 3 clinical trial evaluating the efficacy and safety of DaxibotulinumtoxinA (DAXI) in patients with cervical dystonia. DAXI is a novel formulation of botulinum toxin A that couples the toxin with a stabilizing excipient peptide which avidly binds to negatively charged neuronal nerve terminals, thus concentrating its localization and uptake into the presynaptic nerve terminal. Results from the trial demonstrated that both tested doses of DAXI (125U and 250U) provided significant improvements in TWSTRS total score, a measure of cervical dystonia severity, compared to placebo. More importantly, DAXI exhibited a longer duration of effect compared to currently available botulinum toxins, with a median duration effect of 24.0 weeks for 125U and 20.3 weeks for 250U, suggesting its potential as an effective long-acting treatment option. It is unknown why duration of benefit would be longer for higher doses of toxin, although this result was not statistically significant. DAXI received FDA approval for cervical dystonia in August 2023 and was commercially launched in May 2024.

## **Committee Activities**

### **Clinical Care Committee**

- **Rotation of Committee Chair:** Leadership for the clinical care committee rotates amongst the PADRECCs. The Houston PADRECC leads the committee for July/August. The committee meets via conference call the first Tuesday of the month at 12pm (EST)
- **Standardize and Optimize Clinical Care:** The committee continues to discuss treatment strategies, new medications and other procedures, and other clinical issues to improve patient care and outcomes across the national PADRECCs service area. It also serves to provide clinical support to the PADRECC Associated Sites by focusing on procedures and measures to standardize clinical care across the PADRECC network.
- **Recent agenda items have included:**
  1. **Whole Health at the PADRECCs:** Training and utilization of WH champions, integrating WH in PADRECCs ~ developing a standardized practice model
  2. **Skin biopsy for alpha-synuclein - Syn-One (CNS life sciences):** practice and protocol use in the PADRECCs
  3. **Movement disorders surgical procedures:** Focused Ultrasound Thalamotomy and Gamma Knife Thalamotomy- PADRECC outcomes
  4. **Parkinson’s KinetiGraph (PKG):** practice and protocol use in the PADRECCs

### **Education Committee**

- **PADRECC/EES Movement Disorder Series-Webinars:** knowledge-based webinars to provide VHA healthcare professionals with current practice standards and emerging trends in the treatment of Parkinson’s disease and other movement disorders. CEs are typically provided for the live webinars. Check out the following link for a list of past webinars: [Movement Disorders Series - Parkinson’s Disease Research, Education and Clinical Centers \(va.gov\)](#)

- **Movement Disorders Series Part VI: The Other Movement Disorders**  
**October 10th, 2024 9am-1pm PST / 12pm-4pm EST**

Time		Tentative/Topics	Presenter
9am PST	12pm EST	Secondary Parkinsonism	Pavan Vaswani, MD Philadelphia PADRECC
10am PST	1pm EST	Functional Movement Disorders	Joel Mack, MD Northwest PADRECC
11am PST	2pm EST	Ataxia	Jessica Lehosit, DO Southeast PADRECC

12pm PST	3pm EST	Dystonia	Adrienne Keener, MD West LA PADRECC
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- **National VA PD Newsletter: 2024 VA Parkinson Report-** Currently accepting PADRECC and PADRECC Associated Sites (formally Consortium Center) highlights/updates from the last year.

### Submission guidelines

- Highlight clinical, research or education accomplishments in the last year
  - Limit submission to **300 words** (*submissions will be shortened at the discretion of the editors if over the 300 word limit*)
  - Feel free to provide pictures to go along with submission. Be sure to have signed consents on file for any pictures including patients/care partners
  - Email to [Gretchen.glenn@va.gov](mailto:Gretchen.glenn@va.gov)
- **PD Hospital Safety Training Presentation:** exploring the development of a short grab and go presentation for VA CLC, CNH and Veteran State Home staff to improve the care of Veterans with PD who reside there.
  - **The Parkinson's Foundation/VHA Partnership:** several updates of PF/PADRECC materials are in process and will be shared in the next few months. In addition, planning for the **2024 Veteran Webinar Series** is underway with 4 webinars slated this fall/winter, more information coming soon!
  - **2026 World Parkinson's Congress:** WPC will be held in Phoenix, AZ in 2026 and the PADRECCs are an organizational partner. Committee is exploring outreach opportunities leading up to and during the Congress, stay tuned.
  - **Parkinson's Disease Rehab-Community of Practice on Microsoft Teams-** collaboration with rehabilitation subject matter experts across the VA with interest in PD to develop this COP to address and enhance rehabilitation care for Veterans with PD and similar conditions. The goal of the platform is to share evidence-based knowledge to inform PD-specific rehabilitation practices, provide access to up-to-date resources, program success and opportunities for improvement. All are welcome to join:  
[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/channel/19%3a\\_NAJNcVxoyd5XB0M\\_UnwK4Ym7vi8C971TC0xqerdf1%40thread.tacv2/General?groupId=bf9f6fc8-06da-401e-99c5-6dd0b47494ee&tenantId=e95f1b23-abaf-45ee-821d-b7ab251ab3bf](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/channel/19%3a_NAJNcVxoyd5XB0M_UnwK4Ym7vi8C971TC0xqerdf1%40thread.tacv2/General?groupId=bf9f6fc8-06da-401e-99c5-6dd0b47494ee&tenantId=e95f1b23-abaf-45ee-821d-b7ab251ab3bf)
  - **National Website Maintenance:** The committee performs periodic maintenance checks of the National Website to ensure information is current and up-to-date.
  - **PADRECC Transmitter:** This committee continues to assemble and distribute this e-newsletter every other month.