



Motor Fluctuations Indices in Parkinson's disease

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1. Introduction:

Motor fluctuations are routinely identified in Parkinson's disease (PD) by clinical scales and self-reported tools¹ whose short-cut and subjective nature of evaluation affects diagnostic accuracy of motor status. Thus, the objective long-term observation by the 12-hours Waking-day Motor Assessment (WDMA) could be considered an appropriate tool for the clinical detection of motor deterioration. WDMA-based indices may be proposed to specifically quantify motor fluctuations.

2. Materials and Methods:

Study samples

Two independent samples of N=51 and N=109 PD subjects were included in the study. All patients satisfied the UK Brain Bank criteria² and were being treated with L-Dopa therapy. Demographic and clinical information on all patients were collected. Cognitive abilities were investigated with the Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE) using a cut-off of 24 or lower to define the cognitive impairment³.

Motor assessment

All patients were evaluated every 2 hours by a WDMA using the motor part of the UPDRS-III⁴. Motor scores were reported as graphs. Six blinded raters, expert in Movement disorders, classified the 51 patients with or without motor fluctuations. To quantify motor fluctuations, a Worsening Index (WI), a Mean Fluctuation Index (MFI) and a Coefficient of Variation (CV) were computed based on variations in UPDRS-ME values (U). The optimal cut-off of each index was calculated. Indices cut-off accuracy was then tested in the N=109 sample.

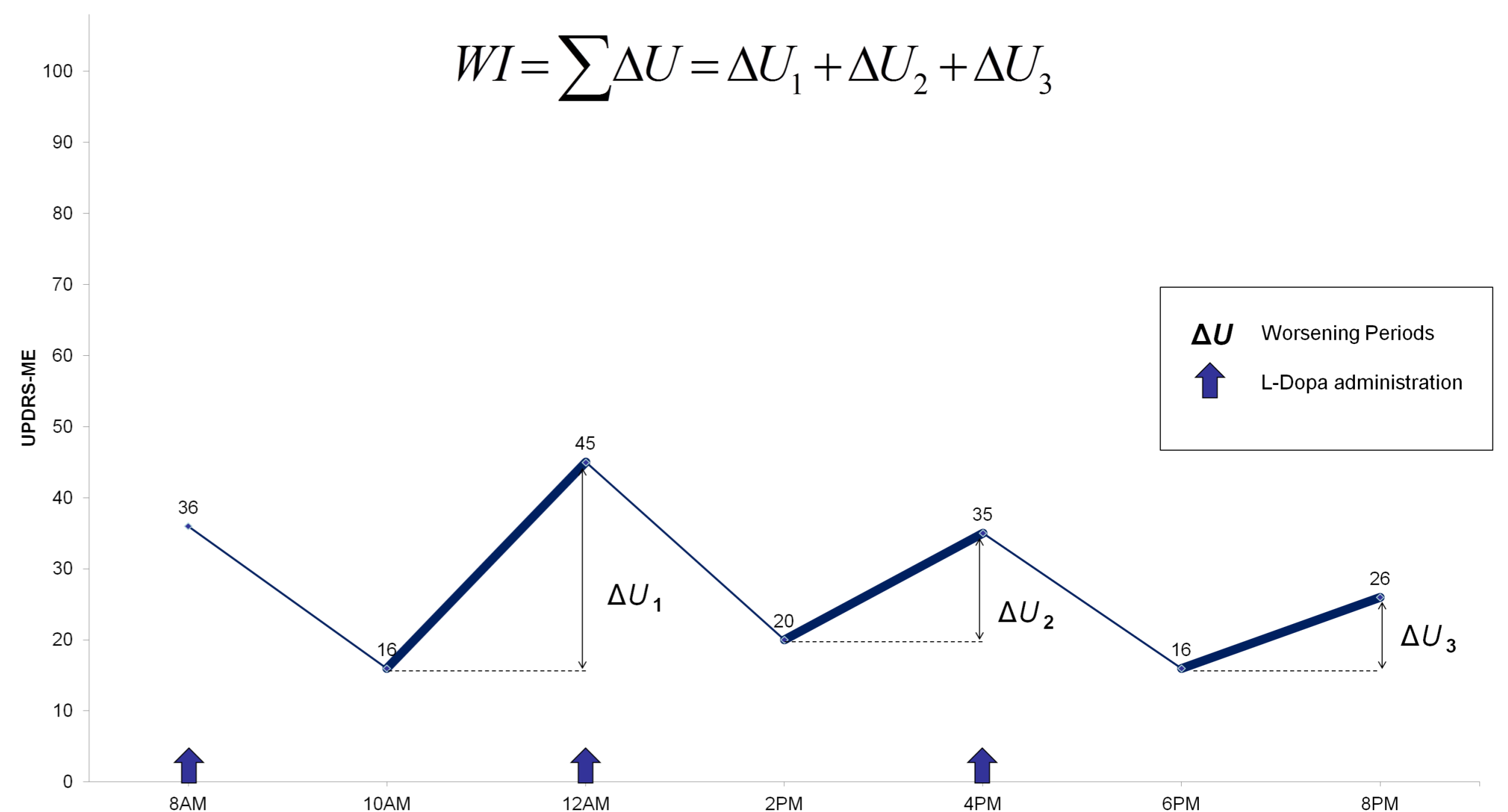
Statistical analysis

All data were analyzed using STATA 12.1 software. We described all quantitative variables as mean ± standard deviation (SD), besides categorical variables were described using frequency. Difference between means was estimated by the Chi-square test. Cut-offs values were studied by the Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) using physicians' evaluation of WDMA as gold standard. Only those patients with at least 5 out of 6 inter-rater agreement on presence or absence of fluctuation were selected for the analysis.

Cohen's kappa was also calculated to measure the inter-rater agreement. 95% Confidence Intervals (CI) of sensitivity and specificity were as well computed.

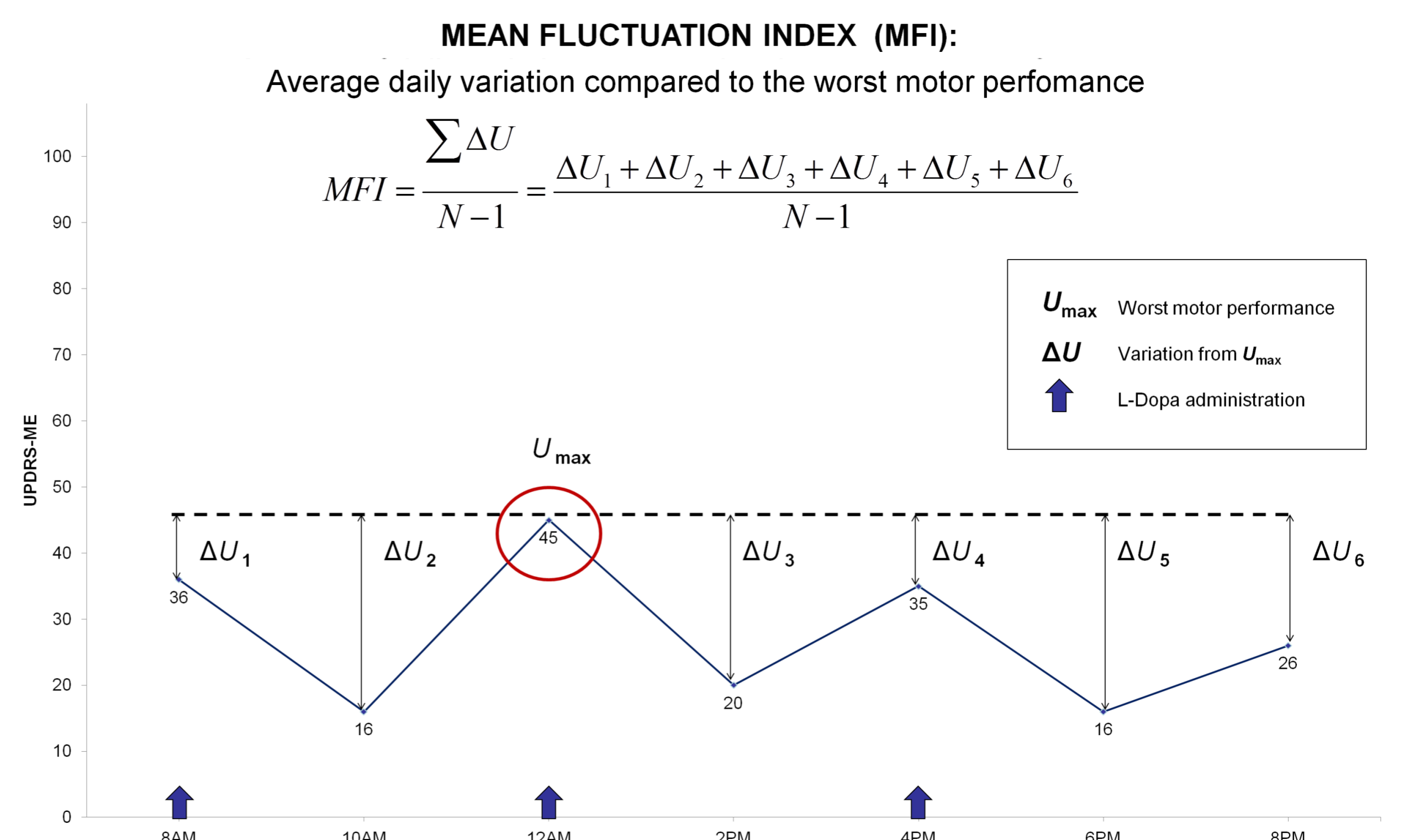
WORSENING INDEX (WI):
Overall motor deterioration during the day

$$WI = \sum \Delta U = \Delta U_1 + \Delta U_2 + \Delta U_3$$



MEAN FLUCTUATION INDEX (MFI):
Average daily variation compared to the worst motor performance

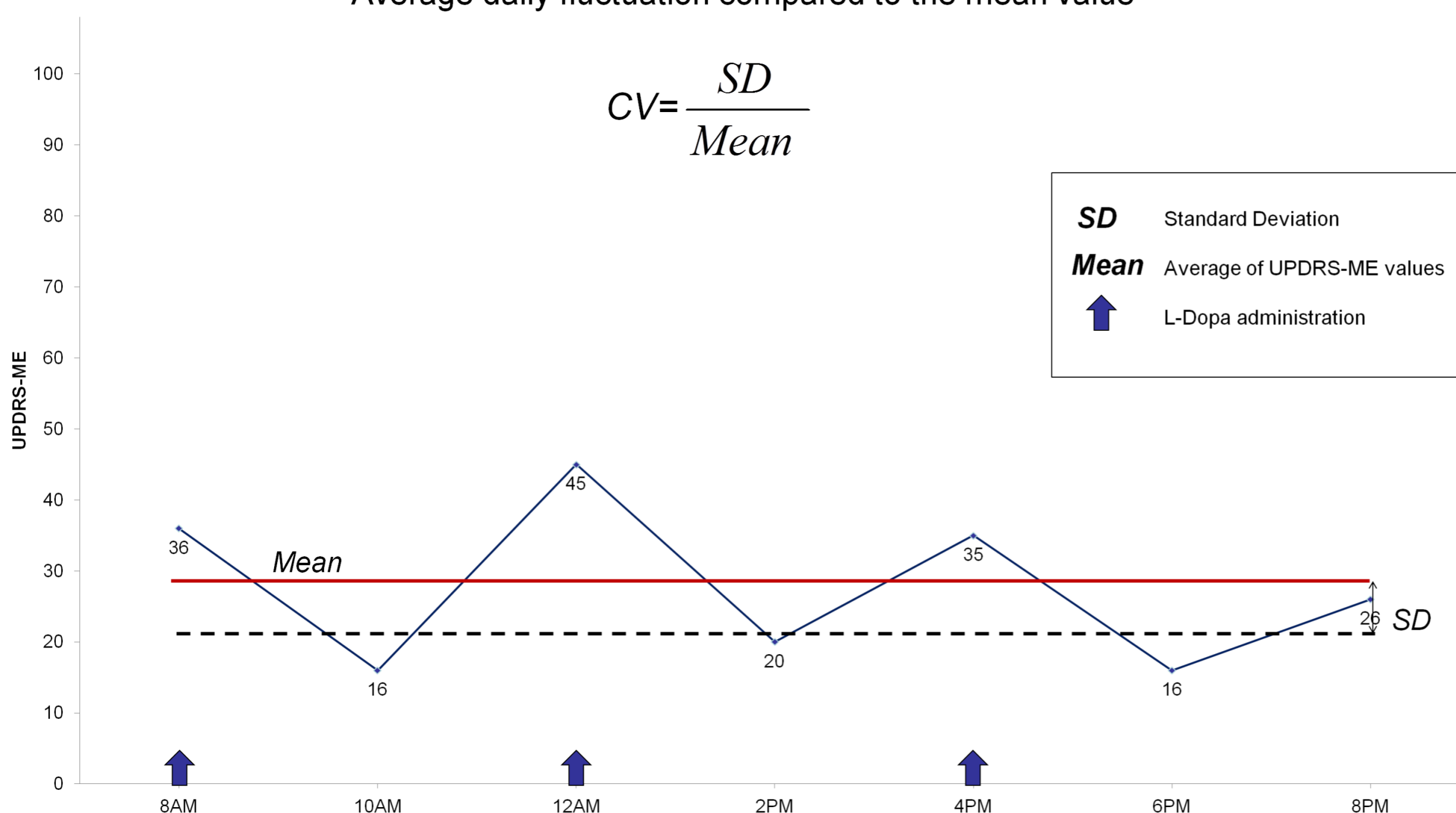
$$MFI = \frac{\sum \Delta U}{N-1} = \frac{\Delta U_1 + \Delta U_2 + \Delta U_3 + \Delta U_4 + \Delta U_5 + \Delta U_6}{N-1}$$



COEFFICIENT OF VARIATION (CV):
Average daily fluctuation compared to the mean value

Average daily fluctuation compared to the mean value

$$CV = \frac{SD}{Mean}$$



3. Results

Cut-offs' identification

In 51 PD patients sample, indices' optimal cut-offs calculated by using the ROC curve analysis were **8.3** for the WI, **5** for the MFI and **12.9** for the CV. The cut-offs were selected by identifying the values with the highest efficiency.

Indices' validation

Accuracy of the cut-offs verified in the 109-study population showed a sensitivity and a specificity of **97.9%** (95%CI: 94.8 to 100) and **94.3%** (95%CI: 81.4 to 97.5) for the WI, **87.5%** (95%CI: 80.4 to 94.6) and **94.3%** (95%CI: 89.3 to 99.3) for the MFI, **81.3%** (95%CI: 72.9 to 89.6) and **100%** (95%CI: 99.9 to 100) for the CV.

4. Conclusions

Our study proved that the WI, the MFI and the CV represent sensitive and reliable indices of motor status giving a specific and quantitative estimation of motor fluctuations in complicated PD.

References

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