

Fine motor timing in persons with Parkinson's disease
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In the present study we assessed the fine motor timing ability in 27 persons with Parkinson's disease (PD) compared with 27 closely matched, healthy controls (HC). The timing assessment was made using tasks comprising finger-tapping movements and syllable repetition of the syllable /pa/, with and without a metronome in three different tempi. Results showed that there were significant differences between the two groups, and the main findings were: that in the slowest tempo, 90 beats per minute, the PD-group produced responses in a significantly faster and more variable tempo compared with the HC-group, especially in the syllable-repetition task during synchronization to the metronome. This, and the rest of the results will be discussed in the light of speech motor control, degree of dysarthria, and different ways to measure and assess fine motor timing ability.