

# A bibliometric analysis of neuroimaging biomarkers in Parkinson disease based on Web of Science

Xiao-Ling Li, MM<sup>a</sup>, Rui-Xue Gao, MM<sup>b</sup>, Qinhong Zhang, MD<sup>c</sup>, Ang Li, PhD<sup>d</sup>, Li-Na Cai, MM<sup>b</sup>, Wei-Wei Zhao, PhD<sup>e</sup>, Sheng-Lan Gao, MB<sup>b</sup>, Yang Wang, MM<sup>a,b</sup>, Jinhuan Yue, MD<sup>c,\*</sup>

# Abstract

**Background:** This study aimed to analyze and summarize the research hotspots and trends in neuroimaging biomarkers (NMBM) in Parkinson disease (PD) based on the Web of Science core collection database and provide new references for future studies.

**Methods:** Literature regarding NMBM in PD from 1998 to 2022 was analyzed using the Web of Science core collection database. We utilized CiteSpace software (6.1R2) for bibliometric analyses of countries/institutions/authors, keywords, keyword bursts, references, and their clusters.

**Results:** A total of 339 studies were identified with a continually increasing annual trend. The most productive country and collaboration was the United States. The top research hotspot is PD cognitive disorder. NMBM and artificial intelligence medical imaging have been applied in the clinical diagnosis, differential diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis of PD. The trends in this field include research on T1 weighted structure magnetic resonance imaging in accordance with voxel-based morphometry, PD cognitive disorder, and neuroimaging features of Lewy body dementia and Alzheimer disease.

**Conclusion:** The development of NMBM in PD will be effectively promoted by drawing on international research hotspots and cutting-edge technologies, emphasizing international collaboration and institutional cooperation at the national level, and strengthening interdisciplinary research.

**Abbreviations:** MRI = magnetic resonance imaging, NMBM = neuroimaging biomarkers, PD = Parkinson's disease, SVM = support vector machine, WOS = Web of Science.

Keywords: bibliometric analysis, CiteSpace, neuroimaging biomarkers, Parkinson disease, Web of Science database

# 1. Introduction

Parkinson disease (PD) is the second most common neurodegenerative disease, after Alzheimer disease.<sup>[1-3]</sup> It has been reported that such disorders have a late onset and may affect approximately 1% of the population >65 years old,<sup>[4,5]</sup> and 4% of people aged >80 years.<sup>[4]</sup> Its incidence rates range from 8 to 18 per 100,000 persons annually,<sup>[4]</sup> with a prevalence rate of 19.9/100,000 persons in men and 9.9/100,000 persons in females.<sup>[6]</sup> Epidemiological studies have reported that most patients with PD (approximately 90%) have sporadic (90%) or late-onset PD.<sup>[7]</sup> Approximately 5% to 10% of patients with PD have early onset<sup>[8]</sup> and commonly occur in familial clusters.<sup>[9]</sup>

X-LL, R-XG, Q-HZ and AL contributed equally to this work.

The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

In recent years, an increasing number of studies have focused on PD, and neuroimaging biomarkers (NMBM) have attracted extensive attention from researchers. These studies involved NMBM, such as dopamine Positron Emission Tomography/ Single-Photon Emission Computed Tomography,<sup>[10]</sup> nondopamine imaging (serotonin and cholinergic imaging,<sup>[11]</sup> metabolic and cerebral blood flow network neuroimaging<sup>[12]</sup>), and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) (diffusion-weighted imaging,<sup>[13,14]</sup> neuromelanin-sensitive imaging,<sup>[15]</sup> iron-sensitive imaging,<sup>[16]</sup> and T1 weighted imaging<sup>[17]</sup>). Currently, an increasing number of studies have investigated imaging biomarkers of PD,<sup>[18–20]</sup> and few studies have analyzed and summarized the research hotspots and trends in NMBM in PD.

http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/MD.000000000030079

This study was supported by the National Foundation of Natural Science of China (82074537), the Natural Science of Heilongjiang Province (LH2020H103), and District-level Research Projects of Longhua District Health Care Institutions in 2022 (2022010). The funding agencies did not participate in any part of the study.

The datasets generated during and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Declaration of competing interest statement: The authors have declared that none of them have any conflict of interest in connection with this study.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Division of CT and MRI, First Affiliated Hospital of Heilongjiang University of Chinese Medicine, Harbin, China, <sup>b</sup> Graduate School of Heilongjiang University of Chinese Medicine, Harbin, China, <sup>c</sup> Department of Tuina, Acupuncture and Moxibustion, Shenzhen Jiuwei Chinese Medicine Clinic, Shenzhen, China, <sup>d</sup> Sanofi-Aventis China Investment Co., Ltd, Beijing, China, <sup>e</sup> MSD R&D (China) Co., Ltd, Beijing, China.

<sup>\*</sup>Correspondence: Jinhuan Yue, Department of Tuina, Acupuncture and Moxibustion, Shenzhen Jiuwei Chinese Medicine Clinic, Shenzhen 518000, China (e-mail: yjh\_2008@163.com).

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How to cite this article: Li X-L, Gao R-X, Zhang Q, Li A, Cai L-N, Zhao W-W, Gao S-L, Wang Y, Yue J. A bibliometric analysis of neuroimaging biomarkers in Parkinson disease based on Web of Science. Medicine 2022;101:33(e30079).

Received: 2 May 2022 / Received in final form: 28 June 2022 / Accepted: 28 June 2022

CiteSpace is a Java-based computer programming language explored by Professor Meichao Chen at Drexel University in the United States, which conducts bibliometric analyses of the literature in specific research fields.<sup>[21-23]</sup> It has been utilized to identify core researchers, institutions, countries/regions, keyword bursts, citation reference bursts, and their collaborative relationships, presenting research trends and hotspots through co-citation.<sup>[24,25]</sup> Based on the relevant PD literature of NMBM in the Web of Science (WOS) core collection database, a knowledge map was drawn using the CiteSpace software. This study aimed to explore the research status, hotspots, and trends of NMBM in PD over the past 2 decades and provide a reference for international research in the present field.

# 2. Methods

### 2.1. Ethical statement

This study did not need ethical approval, because no individual patient data was used.

### 2.2. Data acquisition

This study searched all relevant literature or review articles from the WOS core collection database from 1998 to 2022 based on MeSH words on April 2, 2022. Two authors separately performed the literature search. Any differences were resolved through discussion with the help of a third author. We used the following search string: TS=("parkinson disease" OR "Idiopathic Parkinson's Disease" OR "Lewy Body Parkinson's Disease" OR "Parkinson's Disease, Idiopathic" OR "Parkinson's Disease, Lewy Body" OR "Parkinson Disease, Idiopathic" OR "Parkinson's Disease" OR "Idiopathic Parkinson Disease" OR "Lewy Body Parkinson Disease" OR "Primary Parkinsonism" OR "Parkinsonism, Primary") AND TS=("neuroimaging" OR "Brain Imaging" OR "Imaging, Brain") AND TS=("Biomarker" OR "Biomarkers" OR "Biological Marker" OR "Biological Markers" OR "Biologic Markers" OR "Marker, Biological" OR "Biologic Marker" OR "Marker, Biologic" OR "Markers, Biologic" OR "Biomarker" OR "Markers, Biological").

A total of 339 related studies were retrieved, and we chose "full text and cited references." All retrieved literature was exported in plain-text format using CiteSpace 6.1R2. After removing the duplicates, 339 articles were included in the analysis. A flowchart of the study selection process is presented in Figure 1.

## 2.3. Analysis tool

Microsoft Excel 97 was used to calculate the number of publications annually. The CiteSpace software (6.1R2) tool was used to construct, analyze, and visualize bibliometric maps.<sup>[26,27]</sup> Our analysis included countries/regions, institutions, authors, keywords, co-citations of literature and journals, and bibliometric analysis. The nodes in each atlas represent the corresponding countries, institutions, authors, keywords, co-cited literature, co-cited journals, etc. The connections between nodes represent the cooperation of countries/regions, institutions, authors, co-occurrence of keywords, and co-citation of literature and journals. CiteSpace identifies parts of mediation centricity, with high mediation centricity representing turning points in the field. The parameters of CiteSpace were set as follows: time Slicin: 1998 to 2022, years per slice (1); text processing: term source (title, abstract, author keywords, keywords plus), term type, links and selection criteria, node type (country, institution, author, keyword, reference, cited journal), pruning (pathfinder, pruning sliced networks, and pruning the merged network). Detailed information is available at http://cluster.cis.drexel. edu/~cchen/citespace.

### 3. Results

### 3.1. Current status of research on NMBM of PD

**3.1.1.** Analysis of annual publications. The annual number of publications is shown in Figure 2. As can be seen from this figure, the literature on NMBM of PD in the field shows a continuous growth trend, and the fitting curve index is  $y = 1.3142e^{0.1627x}$ . The first paper was published in 1998, with a steady annual average number of approximately 1.14 published papers in 2005. This number has increased annually from 2006 to 2014, with an average of approximately 14.33 papers. This figure increased dramatically between 2015 and 2021, with an annual number of 39.83 articles. Due to the date of retrieval ending on April 2, 2022, the statistics of published literature in 2022 are incomprehensive. However, by fitting the curve, it is assumed that the number of publications by 2022 will increase.

**3.1.2.** Analysis of countries/regions. A national collaborative map of the NMBM of PD is shown in Figure 3. A total of 49 countries/regions contributed to this topic in the field. Each node represents a country/region and its size is proportional to the number of publications. Connections between nodes suggest collaborations, with a wider connection implying tighter collaboration.

Table 1 lists the top 10 countries/regions. The United Kingdom had the highest number of publications (40), followed by China (39), Canada (38), Germany (37), Italy (32), Spain (23), the Netherlands (16), Australia (14), and South Korea (14). The country with the highest degree of centrality was the United States (0.46), followed by Australia, the United Kingdom, Germany, and the Netherlands.

**3.1.3.** Analysis of institutions. An institutional collaboration map for the NMBM of PD is shown in Figure 4. A total of 354 institutions contributed to this study and 628 connections were identified. Each node denotes an institution and the size of the node corresponds to the number of publications. Connections between nodes indicate collaboration, with a wider collection suggesting tighter collaboration. The top ten institutions are listed in Table 2. The largest number of publications was from the University of Pennsylvania, followed by the University of Toronto. The institution with the highest centrality was the Institute of Neurodegeneration Disorders (0.08), followed by the Harvard University.

**3.1.4.** Analysis of authors. The co-author's collaborative map of the NMBM for PD is shown in Figure 5. A total of 531 research authors published all the articles in this field. Each node indicates an author and its size is proportional to the number of publications, with a larger node indicating more publications. Connections between nodes imply collaboration, and a total of connections were identified. The wider the connection, the tighter is the collaboration.

The top 10 authors who published studies related to NMBM of PD are summarized in Table 3. The authors are active professionals in this field. The most productive authors came from the same team, David Eidelberg and Yilong Ma (Feinstein Institute for Medical Research), with 10 published articles. The second- and third-most productive authors were Sanne K. Meles (University of Groningen) and Klaus L. Leenders (University of Groningen), each with 6 publications. This was followed by Remco J. Renken (University of Groningen), Wolfgang H. Oertel (Philipps-Universität Marburg), Jing Zhang (University of Washington), Antonio P. Strafella (University of Toronto), Anthony E. Lang (University of Toronto), and John Q. Trojanowski (University of Pennsylvania).

Among the top 10 authors, the first article was published by American researchers in 2007, followed by Canadian (2015), Dutch (2019), German (2020), and other related studies.



Figure 1. Flowchart of study selection.

**3.1.5.** Analysis of journals and co-cited journals. The 339 articles retrieved in this study were published in 170 journals. The top 10 journals in terms of published articles are listed in Table 4. The journals that published the most number of studies on NMBM of PD were Movement Disorders (19), followed by Frontiers in Neurology (14), Parkinsonism Related Disorders (12), Current Opinion in Neurology (11), Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience (10), Journal of Parkinson's Disease (9), Brain (9), NeuroImage-Clinical (9), Journal of Neural Transmission (8), and Current Neurology and Neuroscience Reports (7). From the perspective of influence, the average impact factor was 6.330, and out of 7/10 journals ranked Q1.

The collaborative map of the co-cited journals of the NMBM of PD is shown in Figure 6, involving 469 nodes and 2819 connections. Each node represents a co-cited journal, and the size of the node increases the co-citation frequency of the journal, with a larger node suggesting higher frequencies of the journal. Connection between nodes signifies the co-citation of the cited journals, with wider connections implying a higher frequency of co-cited journals.

The top 10 journals in terms of co-citation frequency are listed in Table 5. The most frequently cited journals were *Neurology* (275 times), followed by *Movement Disorders* (255 times), *Brain* (241 times), *Annals of Neurology* (204 times), and *Journal of Neurology*, *Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry* (202 times), with over 200 co-citation frequencies. *Annals of Neurology* (0.11) had the highest centrality, followed by the *Journal of Neurology* and *Archives of Neurology*. Of these 10 journals, 9/10 are the current mainstream journals that belong to Q1. The average impact factor was 12.074.

**3.1.6.** Research hotspots and trends. A research hotspot refers to the large number of articles or issues discussed within

![](_page_3_Figure_2.jpeg)

Figure 2. The annual number of publication.

![](_page_3_Figure_4.jpeg)

Table 1 The NMBM of PD research of top 10 countries/regions.

Ranking	Country/region	Frequency	Centrality
1	USA	137	0.46
2	UK	40	0.19
3	China	39	0.02
4	Canada	38	0.09
5	Germany	37	0.17
6	Italy	32	0.07
7	Spain	23	0.15
8	Netherlands	16	0.05
9	Australia	14	0.27
10	South Korea	14	0.00

China = the People's Republic of China, NMBM = neuroimaging biomarker, PD = Parkinson disease, UK = The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, USA = United States of America.

![](_page_4_Figure_4.jpeg)

Figure 4. Institution collaboration map for NMBM of PD. NMBM = neuroimaging biomarkers, PD = Parkinson's disease.

## Table 2

Frequency	of the	top 1	) institutions	for	NMBM	of	PD.
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Ranking	Institution	Frequency	Centrality	Country	
1	University of Pennsylvania (UPenn)	13	0.05	USA	
2	University of Toronto (UT)	12	0.05	Canada	
3	Institute for Neurodegenerative Disorders	9	0.08	USA	
4	University of Groningen (UG)	7	0.00	Netherlands	
5	Emory University (Emory)	7	0.03	USA	
6	Feinstein Institute for Medical Research	6	0.01	USA	
7	Fudan University	6	0.01	China	
8	University of Washington (UW)	6	0.00	USA	
9	Harvard University (Harvard)	6	0.06	USA	
10	King's College London (KCL)	6	0.00	UK	

China = the People's Republic of China, NMBM = neuroimaging biomarker, PD = Parkinson disease, UK = The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, USA = United States of America.

a certain period of time. Co-cited references, co-occurring keywords, and clustering can be used to identify hotspots and trends.

3.1.7. Analysis of co-cited reference. A map of the co-cited references of NMBM for PD is shown in Figure 7. A total of 820 nodes and 2542 connections were identified. Each node represents a cited reference. The node size indicates the frequency of co-cited references. The connection between nodes indicates co-citations, with a wider connection suggesting a higher frequency of co-citations.

The top 10 co-cited references are listed in Table 6. The most co-cited article by Ronald B. Postuma (2015), entitled "MDS clinical diagnostic criteria for Parkinson's disease" was published in Movement Disorders.<sup>[28,33]</sup> Then followed by Ian G. McKeith (2017), entitled "Diagnosis and management of dementia with Lewy bodies: Fourth consensus report of the

![](_page_5_Figure_2.jpeg)

CiteSpace

## Figure 5. Co-author's collaborative map of NMBM of PD. NMBM = neuroimaging biomarkers, PD = Parkinson's disease.

# Table 3 The top 10 frequency authors of NMBM of PD.

Ranking	Author	Frequency	Year	Country
1	David Eidelberg	10	2007	USA
2	Sanne K. Meles	6	2019	Netherlands
3	Klaus L. Leenders	6	2019	Netherlands
4	Jing Zhang	6	2010	USA
5	Yilong Ma	6	2007	USA
6	Antonio P. Strafella	5	2017	Canada
7	Wolfgang H. Oertel	5	2020	Germany
8	Remco J. Renken	4	2019	Netherlands
9	John Q. Trojanowski	4	2017	USA
10	Anthony E. Lang	4	2015	Canada

NMBM = neuroimaging biomarker, PD = Parkinson disease, USA = United States of America.

# Table 4

# Top 10 frequency journals of NMBM of PD.

Ranking Journal		Frequency	IF (2020)*	Q (2020)	
1	Movement Disorders	19	10.338	Q1	
2	Frontiers in Neurology	14	4.008	Q2	
3	Parkinsonism & Related Disorders	12	4.891	Q1	
4	Current Opinion in Neurology	11	5.710	Q1	
5	Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience	10	5.750	Q1	
6	Journal of Parkinson's Disease	9	5.568	Q1	
7	Brain	9	13.501	Q1	
8	NeuroImage-Clinical	9	4.881	Q2	
9	Journal of Neural Transmission	8	3.575	Q2	
10	Current Neurology and Neuroscience Reports	7	5.081	Q1	

IF = impact factor, NMBM = neuroimaging biomarker, PD = Parkinson disease, Q = quartile category.

\* IF and Q in category according to Journal Citation Reports (2020).

![](_page_6_Figure_2.jpeg)

Figure 6. Co-cited journals' collaborative map of NMBM of PD. NMBM = neuroimaging biomarkers, PD = Parkinson's disease.

# Table 5 Top 10 frequency cited journals of NMBM of PD.

Ranking	Cited Journals	Frequency	Centrality	IIF ((2020)*	Q (2020)
1	Neurology	275	0.04	9.910	Q1
2	Movement Disorders	255	0.02	10.338	Q1
3	Brain	241	0.01	13.501	Q1
4	Annals of Neurology	204	0.11	10.422	Q1
5	Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry	202	0.01	10.283	Q1
6	Lancet Neurology	189	0.00	44.182	Q1
7	Archives of Neurology	180	0.03	7.419	Q1
8	Parkinsonism & Related Disorders	179	0.01	4.891	Q1
9	Neuroimage	164	0.01	6.556	Q1
10	PLOS One	148	0.00	3.240	Q2

IF = impact factor, NMBM = neuroimaging biomarker, PD = Parkinson disease, Q = quartile category.

\*IF and Q in category according to Journal Citation Reports (2020).

DLB Consortium" was published in Neurology<sup>[29]</sup>; Lorraine V. Kalia (2015), entitled "Parkinson's disease" was published in Lancet<sup>[30]</sup>; Ju-Hee Kang (2013), entitled "Association of cerebrospinal fluid  $\beta$ -amyloid 1-42, T-tau, P-tau181, and  $\alpha$ -synuclein levels with clinical features of drug-naive patients with early Parkinson disease" was published in JAMA Neurology<sup>[31]</sup> and Seyed-Mohammad Fereshtehnejad (2015), entitled "New clinical subtypes of Parkinson disease and their longitudinal progression: A prospective cohort comparison with other phenotypes" was published in JAMA Neurology.<sup>[32]</sup>

The top 10 co-cited references with centrality are presented in Table 7.<sup>132–36</sup> The first top co-cited reference with the highest centrality (0.37) was Thomas G. Beach, who published a submandibular gland biopsy for the diagnosis of Parkinson disease in the *Journal of Neuropathology* & *Experimental Neurology*. In this study, we suggest that submandibular gland biopsy with Lewy  $\alpha$ -synuclein may improve the accuracy of clinical diagnosis of PD.<sup>[33]</sup>

**3.1.8.** Analysis of keywords co-occurrence and clustering. A keyword map of the NMBM for PD is shown in Figure 8. CiteSpace builds a keyword co-occurrence map with 467 nodes and 1943 connections (Figure 8). Each node represents the frequency of the keywords, with a larger node implying more frequencies. The connection between nodes indicates keyword co-occurrence.

![](_page_7_Figure_2.jpeg)

Figure 7. Map of co-cited references of NMBM of PD. NMBM = neuroimaging biomarkers, PD = Parkinson's disease

# Table 6 The top 5 frequency of co-cited reference of NMBM of PD.

Ranking	Cited reference	Representative author	Frequency	Journal	Publication year
1	MDS clinical diagnostic criteria for Parkinson's disease <sup>[28]</sup>	Ronald B. Postuma	22	Movement Disorders	2015
2	Diagnosis and management of dementia with Lewy bodies: Fourth consensus report of the DLB Consortium <sup>[29]</sup>	lan G. McKeith	15	Neurology	2017
3	Parkinson's disease <sup>[30]</sup>	Lorraine V. Kalia	14	Lancet	2015
4	Association of cerebrospinal fluid β-amyloid 1-42, t-tau,p-tau181, and α-synuclein levels with clinical features of drug-naive patients with early Parkinson disease <sup>[31]</sup>	Ju-Hee. Kang	13	JAMA Neurology	2013
5	New clinical subtypes of Parkinson disease and their longitudinal progression: A prospective cohort comparison with other phenotypes <sup>[32]</sup>	Seyed-Mohammad. Fereshtehnejad	12	JAMA Neurology	2015

NMBM = neuroimaging biomarker, PD = Parkinson disease.

The top 5 frequencies of keyword co-occurrence are listed in Table 8. The most frequent keyword was Parkinson's disease (176 times), followed by Alzheimer's disease (86 times), mild cognitive impairment (69 times), dementia (58 times), and substantia nigra (45 times). The high centrality keywords suggest hotspots and turning points in this field, and its value is between 0 and 1, with a value of > 0.1 exerts higher centrality. High-frequency keywords do not necessarily have a high centrality. From the perspective of centrality, the top 5 keywords were cerebrospinal fluid, alpha-synuclein, cerebral blood flow, beta, and diagnosis.

A map of the keyword clusters of the NMBM for PD is presented in Figure 9. Based on the co-occurrence analysis of

keywords, a log-likelihood test cluster analysis was used to analyze keywords. A total of 17 clusters were obtained, and the first 6 clusters were selected for analysis. Each node represents 1 cluster. The Q value (cluster module value) was 0.7469 (>0.3), which indicated a significant cluster structure, and the S value (average profile value) was 0.8814, which indicated high consistency of cluster members.

The first 6 keyword clusters are listed in Table 9. They were "essential tremor," "pet," "basal ganglia," "accuracy," "demen-tia with Lewy body," and "Alzheimer's disease." The value of each cluster profile was >0.5, indicating high clustering consistency and good homogeneity.

Ranking	Cited reference	Representative autho			
The top 5 centrality of co-cited reference of NMBM of PD.					
Table 7	7				

Ranking	Cited reference	Representative author	Centrality	Journal	Publication year
1	Submandibular gland biopsy for the diagnosis of Parkinson disease $^{\scriptscriptstyle [33]}$	Thomas G. Beach	0.37	J Neuropath Exp Neurol	2013
2	New clinical subtypes of Parkinson disease and their longitudinal progression: A prospective cohort comparison with other phenotypes <sup>[32]</sup>	Seyed-Mohammad Fereshtehnejad	0.36	JAMA Neurol	2015
3	Biomarkers for cognitive impairment in Parkinson disease <sup>[34]</sup>	Min Shi	0.34	Brain Pathol	2010
4	Cognitive impairment in incident, untreated Parkinson disease <sup>[35]</sup>	D. Aarsland	0.33	Neurology	2009
5	Using support vector machine to identify imaging biomarkers of neurological and psychiatric disease: A critical review <sup>[36]</sup>	Graziella Orrù	0.33	Neurosci Biobehav Rev	2012

NMBM = neuroimaging biomarker, PD = Parkinson disease.

![](_page_8_Figure_5.jpeg)

# Table 8

## Top 5 frequency and centrality of NMBM of PD.

Ranking	Frequency	Keywords	Centrality	Ranking	Centrality	Keywords	Frequency
1	176	parkinsons disease	0.02	1	0.29	cerebrospinal fluid	39
2	86	alzheimers disease	0.06	2	0.22	alpha synuclein	40
3	69	mild cognitive impairment	0.09	3	0.20	cerebral blood flow	8
4	58	dementia	0.17	4	0.19	a beta	6
5	45	substantia nigra	0.09	5	0.18	diagnosis	42

NMBM = neuroimaging biomarker, PD = Parkinson disease.

![](_page_9_Figure_2.jpeg)

CiteSpace

Figure 9. Map of keywords clusters of NMBM of PD. NMBM = neuroimaging biomarkers, PD = Parkinson's disease.

Table 9	9			
Top 6 key	words clus	ters of NMBM o	f PD.	
Cluster	Scale	Modularity value	Year of	Keywords (I L B)
	ooulo	Value	publication	
#0	38	0.820	2011	essential tremor (11.22, 0.001); orthostatic hypotension (10.36, 0.005); olfactory dysfunction (6.7, 0.01); lawy body disease (6.7, 0.01)

#1	37	0.926	2007	pet (10.35, 0.005); parkinsons disease (8.17, 0.005); levodopa (7.47, 0.01); cerebrospinal fluid (7.36, 0.01)
#2	36	0.800	2013	basal ganglia (23.51, 1.0E-4); cortical thickness (11.48, 0.001); fdg-pet (7.77, 0.01); brain (7.23, 0.01); gray matter (6.16, 0.05)
#3	36	0.717	2015	accuracy (13.02, 0.001); machine learning (7.29, 0.01); dat-spect (6.5, 0.05); multimodal imaging
#4	35	0.878	2014	dementia with lewy bodies (9.27, 0.005); support vector machine (SVM) (6.61, 0.05); cognitive function (6.61, 0.05); positron emission tomography (6.07, 0.05); rem sleep behavior disorder (5.63, 0.05)

LLR = log-likelihood test, NMBM = neuroimaging biomarker, PD = Parkinson disease.

**3.1.9.** Analysis of keywords with the strongest citation bursts. "Burst words" refers to keywords that reflected the research hotspots and trends and cited frequently at different periods. The connection indicates the period from 1998 to 2022, with the red connection denoting the period from the occurrence of the keyword to its end. The top 8 burst keywords of NMBM for PD are shown in Figure 10. The 8 burst words were differential diagnosis, multiple system atrophy, Lewy body, voxel-based morphometry, diagnostic criteria, biomarkers, magnetic resonance imaging, and disease. Keywords with citation bursts first appeared in 2007. The 4 highest strength burst keywords were "differential diagnosis," "multiple system atrophy," "Lewy body," and "voxel-based morphometry."

# 4. Discussion

This study collected data from relevant studies using the WOS core collection database. A bibliometric analysis of NMBM in PD research from 1998 to 2022 was conducted. It summarizes the general information, research hotspots, and trends of NMBM in PD.

# 4.1. General information for NMBM of PD research

As can be seen from the annual publications about NMBM in PD, its development is categorized into 3 stages in this field:

1. only 0 to 2 studies were published from 1998 to 2005, which indicated a preliminary investigation of NMBM for evaluating PD;

# **Top 8 Keywords with the Strongest Citation Bursts**

Keywords	Year	Strength Begin	End	1998 - <b>2</b> 022
differential diagnosis	1998	3.34 <b>2007</b>	2009	
multiple system atrophy	1998	5.51 <b>2008</b>	2010	
lewy body	1998	4.6 <b>2010</b>	2015	
voxel based morphometry	1998	4 <b>2013</b>	2016	
diagnostic criteria	1998	5 <b>2019</b>	2022	
biomarker	1998	4.64 <b>2020</b>	2022	
magnetic resonance imaging	1998	3.39 <b>2020</b>	2022	
disease	1998	3.43 <b>2021</b>	2022	
Top 9 burgt konwords of NMPM of PD NMPM	1 - nour	oimaging biomarkora		rkingon'a diagona

Figure 10. Top 8 burst keywords of NMBM of PD. NMBM = neuroimaging biomarkers, PD = Parkinson's disease.

- 2. the number of publications increased steadily from 2006 to 2014. The total number of studies showed an increasing trend, with an annual average number of 14.33;
- 3. there were a number of explosive publications (annual publications of 39.83) from 2015 to 2021, which indicated that the research on NMBM in PD entered into a period of rapid development in this domain.

Analyzing the collaborative network among countries, institutions, and authors, it was concluded that the United States had the highest centrality, earliest research, and most publications in the field of NMBM in PD. This shows that the United States has the greatest influence in this field. The major institutions are the University of Pennsylvania, Institute of Neurodegenerative Disorders, Emory University, Feinstein Institute for Medical Research, University of Washington, and Harvard University.

The authors are David Eidelberg and Yilong Ma from the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research, Jing Zhang from the University of Washington, and John Q. Trojanowski from the University of Pennsylvania. David Eidelberg, whose research focused on the association between brain metabolism and blood flow in PD,[37-42] primarily investigated the expression of metabolic brain networks in PD using the 18F-FDG-PET image reconstruction algorithm.[43,44] The second-highest publication country is the United Kingdom, with the representative institution of King's College London. The third-largest country is China, with the representative institution of Fudan University. Countries, institutions, and authors all have certain collaborations with each other. However, there is less cooperation among countries but closer collaboration among authors within national institutions. Thus, it is important to establish long-term and stable collaborations among authors and institutions across international countries, which is beneficial for further development of NMBM in PD in this field.

The top published journal is *Movement Disorders* and the top-cited journal is *Neurology*. The research fields of both journals are clinical neurology, and both are Q1 journals, which have a high academic status and international influence, indicating that the research quality of NMBM in PD is high. In addition, publishing in high-quality journals contributes to the cooperation and exchange of scholars across different regions.

## 4.2. Research hotspots and trends of NMBM in PD

This study discusses the hotspots and trends of NMBM in PD from the aspects of co-citation references, co-occurrence, cluster, and bursts of keywords. Keyword co-occurrence and clusters indicate hot topics in this field, and keyword bursts may suggest frontier topics or emerging trends in this field.<sup>[24]</sup> We can obtain research results with high attention in this field through an analysis of publications with high citation frequency and centrality, which reveals the focus areas of scholars.

This study analyzed the co-occurrence and cluster of keywords to understand the research focus of NMBM in PD. The high-frequency keywords were Alzheimer's disease, mild cognitive impairment, dementia, and substantia nigra, but not all of them had high centrality, which often reflects the turning point of the map of keyword frequency. The keywords with high centrality were cerebrospinal fluid, alpha-synuclein, cerebral blood flow, beta, and diagnosis, which play an effective role in supporting the research network in this field. Of those, dementia was the high-frequency keyword with centrality of 0.17 (>0.1). Along with cerebrospinal fluid, alpha synuclein, cerebral blood flow, beta, and diagnosis are hot topics in this research field.

This study explored the research trends in NMBM in PD, in accordance with the literature on co-cited references and keyword bursts in this field. The top 8 strongest citation bursts of keywords were differential diagnosis, diagnostic criteria, biomarkers, Lewy body, voxel-based morphometry, biomarkers, MRI, and disease. Among these, diagnostic criteria, biomarkers, magnetic resonance imaging, and disease have been hotspots and trends of research since 2019.

This analysis consisted of the following aspects. First, it focuses on NMBM in PD, which provides a better understanding of PD through biomarkers, diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring of PD progression, and further improves its diagnostic criteria and differential diagnosis. Current research methods for NMBM include T1-weighted MRI, dopaminergic Positron Emission Tomography/Single-Photon Emission Computed Tomography, nondopaminergic PET, metabolic and network imaging, iron-sensitive MRI, free-water imaging, and neuromelanin-sensitive MRI. According to Kraemmer et al's<sup>[45]</sup> study, PET or SPECT presents abnormally only when a large number of dopaminergic neurons are lost in substantia nigra pars compacta, which is incredible in the differential diagnosis of atypical Parkinson syndrome.<sup>[45]</sup> T1-weighted MRI with voxel-based morphometry has some advantages in differentiating PD from atypical Parkinson syndrome.[46] However, there are limitations to using different NMBM. Bougea<sup>[18]</sup> suggested that a combination of multiple biomarkers can improve the early diagnosis and more accurate prognosis of PD. Thus, exploring more valuable NMBM remains a focus in this field.

Second, it focuses on disease research. With further study of NMBM in pathology, studies have reported the key pathological features of PD as the loss of dopaminergic neurons in substantia nigra pars compacta,<sup>[47]</sup>  $\alpha$ -synuclein insolubilization,

and aggregation of Lewy bodies and intracellular inclusions in Louie neurites,<sup>[48]</sup> SNCA,<sup>[49]</sup> LRRK2,<sup>[50]</sup> VPS35,<sup>[51,52]</sup> EIF4G1,<sup>[53]</sup> DNAJC13,<sup>[54]</sup> and CHCHD2<sup>[55]</sup> gene mutation. It is still difficult to differentiate cognitive impairment in patients with PD from that in those with dementia or Alzheimer disease. Manuel Delgado-Alvarado summarized the potential biomarkers of dementia and mild cognitive impairment in patients with PD over the past 25 years, and concluded decreased cholinergic innervation and metabolism in the posterior midbrain region by PET and hippocampal atrophy on MRI. The results indicate that there may be dementia or dementia risk, suggesting a longitudinal study combining existing techniques and new methods to identify dementia risk in PD.<sup>[56]</sup> In February 2018, Hanna-Pladdy conducted a 5-year prospective longitudinal cohort study of biomarkers to predict cognitive progress in patients with PD. This study established a combination of cognitive and fMRI methods for the early recognition of cognitive progression risks and for the use of graph theory analysis to establish phenotypes of PD connectives.<sup>[57]</sup> It is also used to establish predictive models, fMRI biomarkers, and to explore PD cognitive impairment and common clinical dementia as the research frontiers in this field.

Third, previous studies have focused on neuroimaging technology. With the development of artificial intelligence, the recognition of neural and mental NMBM by the support vector machine (SVM) has become a current research hotspot and trend. Some scholars have applied the computer-aided classification technology of the SVM learning model to distinguish patients with PD, and have obtained better classification efficiency and coincidence rate of clinical diagnosis. SVM has become a new assessment tool for PD instead of clinical manual evaluation, and has become a classification technique for subtypes of PD.<sup>[58]</sup> Artificial intelligence combines big data, classifiers, SVM, and machine learning to build models for the early assessment of PD cognition. In addition to the differential diagnosis of Lewy body dementia, Alzheimer disease and frontotemporal dementia have become frontier topics of current research.

# 5. Limitation

A bibliometric analysis of publications on NMBM in PD using CiteSpace was conducted in this study. We only analyzed publications from the WOS core collection because of the limitation of the CiteSpace software, and only English publications were analyzed, which may have resulted in incomprehensive literature sources. In addition, CiteSpace is simply a network of visualization and analysis, and the diseases covered by the study need to be considered in future analyses.

### 6. Conclusion

This study summarizes the general information, research hotspots, and trends in NMBM in PD. The current research status shows that the study of NMBM in PD develops rapidly, which indicates that collaborations among scholars, institutions, and countries need to be enhanced. The research hotspots and trends are to explore new NMBM and artificial intelligence medical imaging for the early prediction, clinical diagnosis, differential diagnosis, and treatment evaluation of PD. The most frequently studied disorder is cognitive impairment in PD.

# **Author contributions**

Conceptualization: Ang Li, Jinhuan Yue, Li-na Cai, Qinhong Zhang, Rui-xue Gao, Sheng-lan Gao, Wei-wei Zhao, Xiao-ling Li, Yang Wang.

- Data curation: Ang Li, Jinhuan Yue, Li-na Cai, Qinhong Zhang, Rui-xue Gao, Sheng-lan Gao, Wei-wei Zhao, Xiao-ling Li, Yang Wang.
- Formal analysis: Rui-xue Gao.
- Funding acquisition: Qinhong Zhang, Xiao-ling Li.
- Investigation: Jinhuan Yue, Qinhong Zhang.
- Methodology: Qinhong Zhang, Rui-xue Gao, Wei-wei Zhao.
- Project administration: Jinhuan Yue, Qinhong Zhang.
- Resources: Li-na Cai, Rui-xue Gao, Sheng-lan Gao, Xiao-ling Li, Yang Wang.
- Software: Rui-xue Gao, Yang Wang.
- Supervision: Jinhuan Yue, Qinhong Zhang.
- Validation: Ang Li, Jinhuan Yue, Li-na Cai, Qinhong Zhang, Rui-xue Gao, Sheng-lan Gao, Wei-wei Zhao, Xiao-ling Li, Yang Wang.
- Visualization: Ang Li, Jinhuan Yue, Li-na Cai, Qinhong Zhang, Rui-xue Gao, Sheng-lan Gao, Wei-wei Zhao, Xiao-ling Li, Yang Wang.
- Writing original draft: Ang Li, Jinhuan Yue, Qinhong Zhang, Rui-xue Gao, Xiao-ling Li, Yang Wang.
- Writing review & editing: Ang Li, Jinhuan Yue, Li-na Cai, Qinhong Zhang, Rui-xue Gao, Sheng-lan Gao, Wei-wei Zhao, Xiao-ling Li, Yang Wang.

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