Lewy Body Dementias

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Abstract
Lewy body dementia encompasses a spectrum of neurodegenerative disease causing progressive cognitive impairment. The disease entities included under a Lewy body dementia umbrella are dementia with Lewy bodies and Parkinson’s disease dementia. These two conditions are currently best distinguished by the timing of onset and relative prominence of motor versus cognitive symptoms, yet they share many clinical and pathological characteristics. Criteria have also been developed or proposed to identify their respective prodromal stages, including mild cognitive impairment in Parkinson’s disease and prodromal dementia with Lewy bodies. This article will overview the spectrum, clinical features, pathophysiologic mechanisms, diagnostic criteria, and management of LBD.

Lewy Body Diseases
- Prodromal DLB
- Parkinson’s Disease
- Dementia with Lewy Bodies
- Parkinson’s disease dementia

Mild Cognitive Impairment
- MCI-DLB
- MCI in PD

Lewy Body Dementias
- DLB
- PDD

Key Points
- Lewy body diseases include dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB), Parkinson’s disease dementia (PDD), and prodromal stages.
- Lewy body diseases are pathologically defined by deposits of aggregated alpha-synuclein, although co-pathology is common.
- Together, Lewy body diseases may comprise up to 25% of all cases of dementia.
- DLB and PDD are distinguished by the relative timing of symptom onset.
- Core clinical features of DLB include parkinsonism, visual hallucinations, REM sleep behavior disorder, and cognitive fluctuations.
- Treatment is symptom-based, focusing on symptoms that are unsafe or bothersome to the patient/caregiver.
- Novel treatments currently being studied include tyrosine kinase inhibitors, ambroxol, and CT1812; all of which target lysosomal function.

Diagnostic Tools in Suspected LBD

Key References

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