NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL TEST PROFILES IN AD VS DLB WITH MILD DEMENTIA

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Introduction: Alzheimer’s disease (AD) and Dementia with Lewy Bodies (DLB) are the two most common types of dementia. Neuropsychological testing is an important tool for differentiating between the two types. Neuropsychological profiles for AD are well described in literature, but not so much for DLB. Studies on DLB are also often limited by small sample sizes.

Aims: This study presents neuropsychological test profiles for mild AD and DLB (> MMSE 20).

Methods: In a longitudinal study (DEMVEST), patients with AD (n=109) and DLB (n=61) were tested with a battery of standardized neuropsychological tests; MMSE, Trail Making Test (TMT), California Verbal Learning Test (CVLT-II), Visual Object and Space Perception Test (VOSP), Boston Naming Test (BNT) and Verbal Category Fluency (Animals).

Results: At baseline, the groups were identical in age and education, but there were significantly more women in the AD group. There were no statistical significant differences between AD and DLB on CVLT-II total correct, CVLT-II forced recognition, VOSP Silhouettes, BNT, Verbal Category Fluency or Trails B. However, patients with AD performed significantly better on VOSP Cube Analysis and Trails A, but worse than DLB on CVLT-II delayed recall.

Conclusions: As in previous studies, patients with DLB have better recall and worse visuospatial/visuoconstructive functioning than patients with AD. The Trail Making Test also seems to differentiate between the groups. Patients with DLB may have a disadvantage on Trails A, possibly due to motor impairment commonly seen in DLB, while performing better on Trails B, when the task is more cognitively demanding.