

Overview of Vascular Dementia, Lewy Body Dementia, & Frontotemporal Dementia

VASCULAR DEMENTIA

- Second most common in U.S., especially in old old patients
- Memory loss, plus loss in at least one other cognitive area
- Occurs as a result of cerebrovascular disease
- Vascular dementia has a stepwise progression with periods of stability
- Frequently combined with other dementias, so vascular dementia by itself, is likely uncommon
- Common for the patient to also have depression along with the dementia

LEWY BODY DEMENTIA

- Lewy body dementia is an irreversible brain disease
- Lewy body dementia is caused by abnormal microscopic deposits of protein in nerve cells, called lewy bodies
- Lewy Body protein destroys the cells over time
- Often found in damaged regions in the brains of persons with Parkinson's disease
- Has symptoms similar to those of Alzheimer's disease
- In rare cases, the disease is passed from generation to generation
- Progressive cognitive decline, occurring before or with parkinsonism (tremors, rigidity, postural instability, and slow movement)
- Patient may present with visual hallucinations
- Dementia begins within 12 months of the appearance of Parkinson's-like symptoms (tremors, rigidity, postural instability, and slow movement)

FRONTOTEMPORAL DEMENTIA

- Is an inherited disease (first degree relative, such as a parent or sibling)/symptoms start at younger age (40's-60's)
- Is caused by an abnormal change (mutation) in a gene that makes "tau protein"
- The tau protein becomes altered and bundles up into tangles and chokes healthy nerve cells
- Early personal and social inappropriate behaviors /unsocial attitudes or actions/loss of insight
- Repetitive and ritualistic behaviors including hoarding and gluttony
- Causes weakening of muscles, swallowing, breathing, and speech is diminished
- There is no evidence that current anti-dementia medications are effective in patients with FTD

Certifications through:

National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners and International Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners

www.nccdp.org

www.nccdp.org/iccdp

CDP Certified Dementia Practitioners

CDCM Certified Dementia Care Managers (Dementia Unit Managers)

Certified Alzheimer's disease and Dementia Care Trainer

CFRDT Certified First Responder Dementia Trainer