

Different Clinical and Neuroimaging Characteristics in Early Stage Parkinson's Disease with Dementia and Dementia with Lewy Bodies

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Abstract. Parkinson's disease with dementia (PDD) and dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB) both commonly exhibit brain Lewy body pathology and similar end-stage symptoms, but early symptoms differ. To clarify these differences, we compared the demographic characteristics, symptoms, cognitive and affective functioning, activities of daily life, and neuroimaging results between PDD ($n=52$) and DLB ($n=46$) patients. In measures of cognitive functioning, PDD patients had worse Hasegawa dementia scale-revised (HDS-R) scores (11.2 ± 4.8) and better frontal assessment battery (FAB) scores (11.3 ± 4.1) compared with DLB (17.0 ± 6.4 , $p=0.013$ and 8.6 ± 4.7 , $p=0.039$, respectively). DLB patients performed worse than PDD patients in "orientation to place" tasks. In affective functions, DLB patients had worse GDS (7.6 ± 3.4) and ABS (9.9 ± 5.3) scores than PDD patients (5.1 ± 4.1 and 4.8 ± 3.0 , respectively). ^{99m}Tc -ECD images showed greater CBF in the whole cingulate gyrus and a lower CBF in the precuneus area in DLB than in PDD. These results suggest that PDD patients' lower average scores for "repetition" (MMSE), "recent memory" (HDS-R), and "lexical fluency" (FAB) were related to lower CBF in the cingulate gyrus than in DLB. Furthermore, DLB patients' poorer average subscale scores of "orientation to place" (MMSE) and "similarities", "conflicting instructions", and "go-no go" (FAB) tasks may be related to the lower CBF in the precuneus area in DLB than PDD.

Keywords: Affective function, cognitive function, dementia with Lewy bodies, Parkinson's disease with dementia, ^{99m}Tc -ECD images

INTRODUCTION

Parkinson's disease (PD) is an age-related degenerative disorder characterized by a profound loss of dopamine producing neurons, with Lewy body inclusions, mainly in the substantia nigra and basal ganglia. PD patients develop motor symptoms such

as resting tremor, rigidity, bradykinesia, and postural instability as well as non-motor symptoms such as cognitive impairment, depression, apathy, and autonomic dysfunctions [1–3].

Parkinson's disease with dementia (PDD) is a late complication of PD due to cerebral cortical degeneration, commonly occurring after a disease duration of about 10 years, and with a cumulative prevalence of 75–90% [4]. Dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB) is also a common type of neurodegenerative dementia, along with Alzheimer's disease [5]. DLB and PD both commonly show Lewy body pathology, which

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is more severe in the neocortex in DLB than in PD. Clinically, PDD and DLB are distinguished based on whether Parkinsonism precedes dementia by more than a year.

Although patients with PDD and DLB develop similar symptoms in the advanced stages, symptoms in the early stages differ. A previous report showed that cognitive dysfunction is greater in DLB than in PDD and relates to frontal and medial temporal-dysfunction [6]. Patients with DLB have decreased cerebral blood flow (CBF) in the occipital lobe, percutaneous gyrus, and posterior cingulate cortex [7, 8], whereas PDD presents with decreased CBF in the posterior cingulate cortex, precuneus, and bilateral parietotemporal association cortices [9].

Recent studies have demonstrated that the anti-dementia drug, donepezil, improves cognition and executive function in PDD [10] and DLB [11], being more beneficial in the latter [12]. However, these data were not comprehensively obtained from the physical, cognitive, affective, and brain symptoms, age of onset, period to diagnosis of dementia, age of dementia onset, Yahr grade, cognitive and affective functioning, and activities of daily living (ADL) scores to investigate the differences in the early stages of PDD and DLB.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Participants

We evaluated 52 PDD patients (30 men and 22 women; age, 73.8 ± 8.4 years old) and 46 age-matched DLB patients (19 men and 27 women; age, 72.2 ± 7.1 years) who visited Okayama University Hospital, Okayama, Japan, and its affiliated hospitals between June 2010 and March 2014. We diagnosed PDD and DLB according to the clinical diagnostic criteria for PDD [12] and the clinical criteria of the Consortium on DLB [13]. The demographic characteristics of PDD and DLB patients were compared for their ages of onset, periods to diagnosis of dementia, ages at diagnosis of dementia, Yahr grade, Parkinsonian symptoms, autonomic disturbance, and initial dementia symptom(s). The period to diagnosis of dementia was defined as being from the time of PD diagnosis, or in DLB from the onset of preclinical suggestive symptoms (i.e., delusions, hallucinations, floating sensations, tremor, rigidity, akinesia, or postural instability), to the development of dementia as assessed by a Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) score of < 23 . This study was

approved by the Ethical Committee of Graduate School of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmaceutical Science, Okayama University (approval #777).

Cognitive and affective functioning

Cognitive functioning was assessed using the MMSE, Hasegawa dementia score-revised (HDS-R), frontal assessment battery (FAB), and Montreal cognitive assessment (MoCA). Affective functioning was assessed using the geriatric depression scale (GDS), apathy scale (AS), and Abe's behavioral and physiological symptoms of dementia score (ABS). Activities of daily living (ADL) were assessed using the Alzheimer's disease Cooperative Study-Activities of Daily Living scale (ADCS-ADL).

Neuroimaging

Brain MRI scans were obtained from 46 PDD and 40 DLB patients to assess white matter changes using the Fazekas scale [14]. Periventricular hyperintensity (PVH) and deep white matter hyperintensity (DWMH) lesions were graded as 0–III for PVH and 0–3 for DWMH. Myocardial ^{123}I -metaiodobenzylguanidine (MIBG) images for heart-to-mediastinum (H/M) ratio were also obtained from 10 PDD and 12 DLB patients with exclusion criteria of cardiac failure, ischemic heart disease, poorly controlled diabetes mellitus ($\text{HbA1c} > 7.0\%$), insulin therapy, and severe kidney dysfunction.

To compare CBF, $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ -ethylcysteinate dimer (ECD) SPECT scintigraphs [15] were obtained from 15 PDD and 19 DLB patients. The SPECT images were anatomically standardized for using SPM5 [16]. In this method, an averaged SPECT image of DLB and PDD were created from these anatomically standardized images and scaling voxel counts by a global mean. We then evaluated a subtraction image of averaged PDD and DLB SPECT images.

Statistical analysis

Statistical analyses were performed using SPSS (22.0.0.0; IBM, Armonk, NY, USA). The Mann-Whitney U test was used to compare cognitive, affective, and ADL functioning, along with neuroimaging results, between the PDD and DLB groups. Chi-square tests were used to compare Parkinsonian symptoms (tremor, autonomic disturbance, and floating sensation).

Table 1
Demographic characteristics of PDD and DLB patients

		PDD	DLB	<i>p</i> value
n (male)		52 (57.6%)	46 (41.3%)	
Age of onset (y)		73.8 ± 8.4	72.2 ± 7.1	0.609
Period to diagnosis (y)		6.2 ± 5.1	0.6 ± 0.4	<0.001**
Age of dementia (y)		80.0 ± 13.5	72.8 ± 7.5	0.461
Yahr grade		2.8 ± 0.8	2.4 ± 0.8	0.069
Yahr 1 (%)		5.0	13.5	
Yahr 2 (%)		30.6	32.4	
Yahr 3 (%)		40.8	40.5	
Yahr 4 (%)		18.4	5.4	
UPDRS (partIII)		46.3 ± 10.9	37.9 ± 13.1	<0.001**
Parkinsonism (%)				
	at disease onset	at developing dementia		
Tremor	88.0	88.0	19.0	<0.001**
Rigidity	75.0	85.0	74.0	0.289
Akinesia	6.0	15.0	19.0	0.783
Postural instability	0.0	58.0	33.0	0.022*
Autonomic disturbance (%)				
Orthostatic hypotension		7.0	78.0	<0.001**
Urinary disturbance		32.0	17.0	0.379
Constipation		71.0	65.0	0.863
Initial symptom of dementia (%)				
Delusion		13.0	78.0	<0.001**
Hallucination		6.0	17.0	0.134
Floating sensation		2.0	65.0	<0.001**

Data represent mean ± SD.

RESULTS

The demographic characteristics, clinical course (ages of onset, periods to diagnosis of dementia, ages of dementia onset), Yahr grade, Parkinsonism, autonomic disturbance, and initial symptoms of dementia are presented in Table 1. There were no significant differences in age of onset, age of dementia and Yahr grade between PDD and DLB patients.

PDD patients more commonly experienced tremor (88.0%) than DLB patients (19.0%, $p < 0.001$). In contrast, DLB patients more commonly had orthostatic hypotension (OH, 78.0%), as a measure of autonomic disturbance, than PDD patients (7.0%, $p < 0.001$). The DLB group also had higher rates of delusion (78.0%), hallucination (17.0%), and floating sensation (65.0%) symptoms than the PDD group (13.0%, 6.0%, and 2.0%, respectively).

As shown in Table 2, PDD patients had similar MMSE but worse HDS-R (11.2, $p = 0.013$) scores than DLB patients (17.0). In contrast, the average FAB score was significantly higher in PDD (11.3 ± 4.1, $p = 0.039$) than DLB patients (8.6 ± 4.7). As measures of affective functioning, DLB patients had worse GDS (7.6 ± 3.4, $p = 0.023$) and ABS (9.9 ± 5.3, $p < 0.001$) scores than in PDD patients

(5.1 ± 4.1 and 4.8 ± 3.0, respectively). The PDD group had poorer ADL results (13.5 ± 6.8, $p = 0.041$) than the DLB group (16.8 ± 5.6). MRI-based Fazekas scale and MIBG scintigraphy were not significantly different between the two groups (Table 2, bottom).

Table 3 shows the MMSE, HDS-R, and FAB subscale scores in PDD and DLB patients. On the MMSE and HDS-R subscales, DLB patients had poorer scores only in “orientation to place” (3.3 ± 1.5, $p = 0.016$ and 1.6 ± 0.7, $p = 0.011$) when compared with PDD patients (4.3 ± 1.1 and 2.0 ± 0.0). However, DLB patients had worse scores on three FAB subscales: “similarities”, “conflicting instructions”, and “go-no go” (1.9 ± 1.2, 0.9 ± 1.0, and 0.1 ± 0.2, $p = 0.039$, $p = 0.016$, and $p = 0.004$) than PDD patients (2.1 ± 1.0, 1.8 ± 1.3, and 1.1 ± 1.4).

Figure 1 (left) shows ^{99m}Tc -ECD SPECT images of the mean CBF values in PDD and DLB patients. The comparison between the two images revealed a slight decrease in the frontal lobe in PDD, but similar CBF in both posterior lobes. However, the subtraction image of mean PDD – mean DLB (Figure, right) shows higher CBF in the whole cingulate gyrus in DLB than in the PDD group (arrowheads). In contrast, there is less CBF in the precuneus area in DLB (arrows) than PDD.

Table 2
Cognitive, affective, and ADL functions with MRI-based Fazekas scale and MIBG scintigraphy

	PDD	DLB	<i>p</i> value
MMSE	19.8 ± 3.6	19.1 ± 6.5	0.954
HDS-R	11.2 ± 4.8	17.0 ± 6.4	0.013*
FAB	11.3 ± 4.1	8.6 ± 4.7	0.039*
MoCA	15.5 ± 4.3	18.3 ± 4.0	0.581
GDS	5.1 ± 4.1	7.6 ± 3.4	0.023*
Apathy	14.4 ± 8.9	20.1 ± 9.9	0.080
ABS	4.8 ± 3.0	9.9 ± 5.3	<0.001**
ADL	13.5 ± 6.8	16.8 ± 5.6	0.041*
Fazekas PVH	1.2 ± 1.0	1.3 ± 1.0	0.571
Fazekas DWMH	1.5 ± 1.0	1.6 ± 1.0	0.497
MIBG, early	1.8 ± 0.4	1.6 ± 0.5	0.892
MIBG, delayed	1.6 ± 0.5	1.3 ± 0.1	0.311
MIBG, washout rate (%)	42.3 ± 13.3	47.3 ± 9.4	0.376

Data represent mean ± SD.

Table 3
Subscales of MMSE, HDS-R, and FAB in PDD and DLB patients

		PDD	DLB	<i>p</i> value
MMSE	orientation to time	3.5 ± 1.3	1.6 ± 0.7	0.211
	orientation to place	4.3 ± 1.1	3.3 ± 1.5	0.016*
	registration	2.8 ± 0.6	2.9 ± 0.6	0.564
	attention and calculations	1.4 ± 1.4	1.4 ± 1.5	0.736
	recent memory	1.3 ± 1.0	1.4 ± 1.0	0.626
	language	1.9 ± 0.4	1.8 ± 0.6	0.333
	repetition	0.7 ± 0.4	0.8 ± 0.8	1.000
	drawing interlocking pentagons	0.7 ± 0.5	0.5 ± 0.5	0.283
HDS-R	age	0.9 ± 0.3	0.8 ± 0.4	0.774
	orientation to time	2.7 ± 1.2	2.0 ± 1.5	0.160
	orientation to place	2.0 ± 0.0	1.6 ± 0.7	0.011*
	calculation	1.0 ± 0.7	0.9 ± 0.6	0.505
	recent memory	3.3 ± 1.9	3.5 ± 1.9	0.706
	memory of 5 items	3.4 ± 1.5	3.3 ± 1.7	0.974
	frontal lobe function	3.5 ± 2.0	2.2 ± 2.2	0.077
FAB	similarities	2.1 ± 1.0	1.9 ± 1.2	0.039*
	lexical fluency	1.3 ± 1.1	1.5 ± 1.2	0.769
	programming	2.0 ± 1.1	1.6 ± 1.2	0.606
	conflicting instruction	1.8 ± 1.3	0.9 ± 1.0	0.016*
	go-no go (inhibitory control)	1.1 ± 1.4	0.1 ± 0.2	0.004**
	prehension behavior	2.7 ± 0.7	2.7 ± 0.8	0.508

Data represent mean ± SD.

DISCUSSION

As the clinical course for DLB patients' is very rapid (in our research, years from "from the first onset of a symptom that indicated possible DLB" to "diagnosed with dementia: MMSE < 23" was 0.6 ± 0.4 years), diagnoses in the early stage, and distinguishing from PDD, are very important for preparing for their terminal dementia stage.

We found that PDD patients had similar cognitive MMSE and MoCA scores, poorer HDS-R, and better FAB scores than DLB patients (Table 2). Of interest was that the subscale analyses showed a common decrease in "orientation to place" in both the MMSE and HDS-R scales (Table 3). Three items of

the FAB subscale, "similarities", "conflicting instructions", and "go-no go", were better in PDD than in DLB (Table 3). These data are similar to a previous report showing that deficits in frontal and medial temporal-related cognitive functions are greater in DLB than in PDD patients [6].

Our DLB patients had poorer scores in all three affective factor items, particularly as assessed by the GDS and ABS (Table 2). Previous studies have shown that 80% of DLB patients have combined depressive and psychiatric symptoms [17], with only 20–50% of PD patients showing depressive symptoms [18]. In the present study, we used ABS for evaluating the behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia [19], and it revealed the strongest

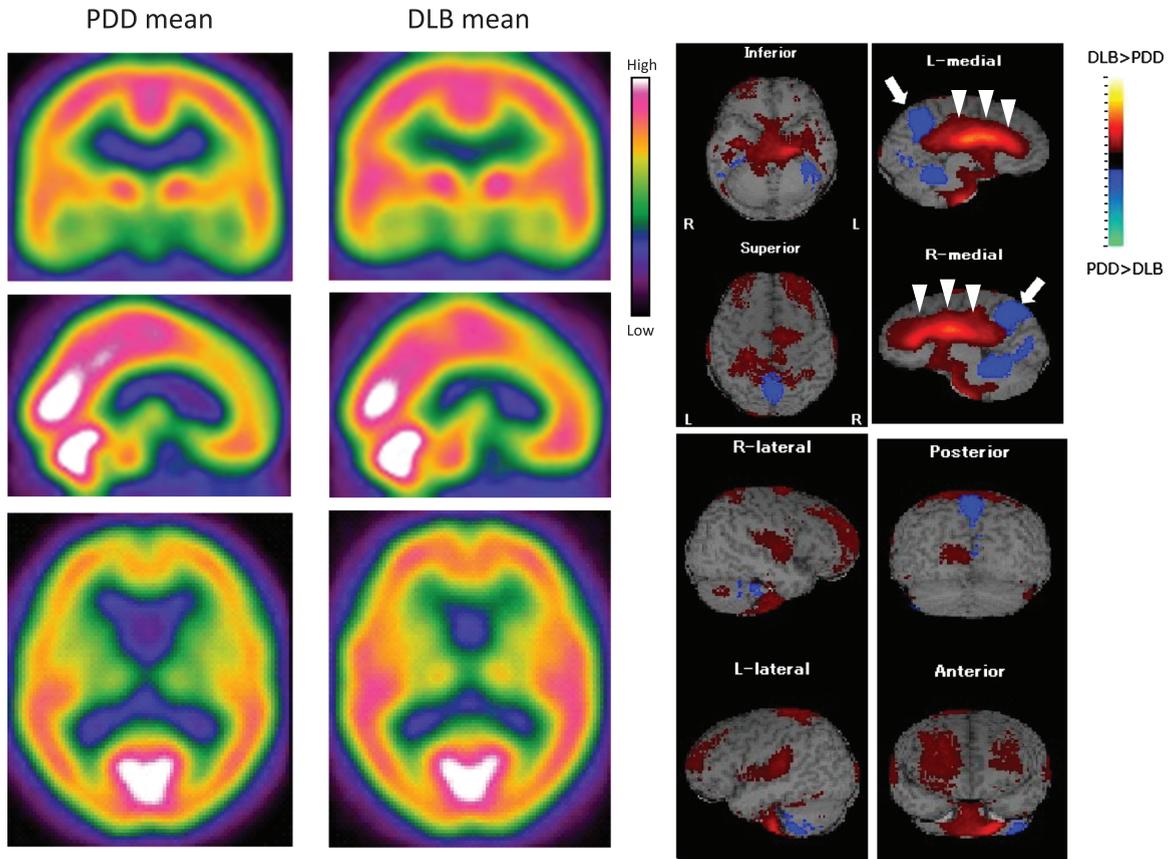


Fig. 1. ^{99m}Tc -ECD SPECT images of the mean values in PDD and DLB patients (left panels). There is a slight decrease of CBF in the frontal lobe in PDD, but similar CBF levels in the posterior lobes of both PDD and DLB. Subtraction image of mean PDD – mean DLB (right panels), showing a higher CBF in whole cingulate gyrus in DLB than PDD groups (arrowheads), and a lower CBF in the precuneus area in DLB (arrow) than PDD.

difference between PDD and DLB. Because the ABS revealed high scores for hallucination, delusion, wandering and abnormal behavior, it could be a useful measure for distinguishing DLB from PDD.

Autonomic dysfunction is common in both PDD and DLB, but OH was much more common in DLB (78.0%, Table 1) than PDD (7.0%). Previous reports have found autonomic dysfunction [20] in 95% of DLB and 60% of PD patients, and OH in 62.5% of PDD patients [21]. This high rate of OH could also be a useful indicator for DLB over PDD.

ADL scores were significantly worse in PDD than DLB (Table 2), probably owing to the higher rates of tremor ($p < 0.001$), rigidity, postural instability ($p = 0.022$), urinary disturbance, and constipation in PDD (Table 1). A previous report showed that 83% of PDD (age 73.1 ± 5.8) and 73% of DLB patients (age 76.4 ± 6.8) suffered from these symptoms [22]. These data may correspond to the poorer Yahr scores

(mean 2.8 ± 0.8 , Yahr 4 is 18.4%) in PDD than DLB (mean 2.4 ± 0.8 , Yahr 4 is 5.4%). Our study shows similar abnormalities of white matter MRI and autonomic MIBG, suggesting a faster progression of such structural and functional abnormalities in DLB than in PDD (Table 2), even though the DLB patients had a shorter disease duration and younger age than the PDD group (Table 1).

Subtraction image of averaged PDD and DLB SPECT image analysis (DLB > PDD region is shown as the red to yellow colored region, whereas the PDD > DLB region is shown as blue to green) showed, for the first time, the interesting result that PDD patients have lower CBF in the whole cingulate gyrus area and that DLB patients have lower CBF in the precuneus area (Figure, right). Both areas involved in Alzheimer's disease. Previous studies showed decreases of CBF in the posterior cingulate cortex, precuneus, and bilateral parietotemporal

association cortex in PDD [9], and in the occipital lobe, percutaneous gyrus and posterior cingulate cortex in DLB [7]. From these result, we speculate that PDD patients' relatively poor average subscale scores for "repetition" (MMSE), "recent memory" (HDS-R), and "lexical fluency" (FAB) could be due to lower CBF in the cingulate gyrus than in DLB. In addition, DLB patients' poorer average subscale scores of "orientation to place" (MMSE), "similarities", "conflicting instructions", and "go-no go" (FAB) could be due to the lower CBF in the precuneus area in DLB than PDD. In addition, previous study demonstrated that cerebral perfusion patterns in AD and PDD are similar [23], making it difficult to describe the CBF pattern of PDD patients. We suspect this difficulty is one of the reasons that there are no previous reports comparing regional hypoperfusion between PDD and DLB.

In conclusion, the present study demonstrates for the first time that patients with PDD show significantly better FAB and "orientation to place" scores than DLB patients as assessed by the MMSE and HDS-R. In addition, PDD patients also have significantly better GDS and ABS scores. PDD-DLB subtraction SPECT images demonstrated differences between PDD and DLB.

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