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Clinical characteristics and prognostic value of various Psychotic features in DLB patients

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Dementia with Lewy bodies is the second most prevalent neurodegenerative dementia after Alzheimer's Disease. Key attributes of DLB are parkinsonism, visual hallucinations, attention fluctuations, and RBD. Parkinsonism is represented by heterogeneous feature set, however it has no particular specificity besides having left-side onset more often and presence of myoclonus which directly correlates to psychotic disorders. Defining fluctuations as well as approaches to diagnostics of them continues to be the topic of discussions, similar phenomenon is also observed in different dementias which also doesn't allow to treat it as a specific feature. Psychotic disorders in DLB patients are various, most typical are visual hallucinations, however illusions, passage and presence phenomena, impaired identification as well as other delusional disorders are observed. Based on analysis of 148 DLB patients we have shown specific relations of various psychotic symptoms with particular cognitive domains and revealed sequence of their occurrence. Using 1.5 Tesla MRI it was possible to reveal relations between psychotic symptoms and damage of specific

structures. Analysis of particularities in neuropsychological profile and particular pattern of damage shown by MRI allowed to explain the "silence" of visual hallucinations and rare occurrence of auditory hallucinations. Complex approach allowed to differentiate between 3 DLB subtypes considering period of psychotic disorders occurrence, specifics thereof, cognitive impairments particularities and neuroimaging data. The subtypes we identified show differences in response to basic anti-dementia therapy (cholinesterase inhibitors and Memantine), which allows for differentiated approach to therapy and prognosis.

Speaker Biography

Elena Vasenina received her MD in 2009. At the age of 27 years she has completed her PhD studies "Cholinesterase inhibitors in treatment of DLB patients" from the Russian Medical Academy of Continuous Professional Education, Russia. Now she is associate professor of neurology department of the Russian Medical Academy of Continuous Professional Education, Moscow, Russia. She has over 100 publications that have been cited over 200 times.

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