

[LETTERS TO THE EDITOR]

Reply to the letter titled, “Dementia with Lewy Bodies and Alzheimer’s Disease Sometimes Coexist”

Key words: dementia with Lewy body disease, Alzheimer’s disease, falls

(Intern Med 61: 2557, 2022)

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The Author Replies We are grateful for the letter concerning our article (1). As pointed out, there are many cases with multiple overlapping types of dementia, and the rate increases with age. In clinical practice, making a clear diagnosis of a single or overlapping disease is often difficult.

In our study, after conducting the laboratory analyses, imaging evaluations, psychological assessments and the level of daily living skills, multiple doctors referenced the findings and made a diagnosis. At the diagnosis stage, we excluded the cases with an unclear diagnosis or cases of multiple dementia [as stated in the article (P. 2. right side L. 16-18: “Cases that could not be diagnosed clearly or had a possible overlap of multiple dementia diseases were excluded”)]. Although this was explicitly stated, the diagnosis was simple a clinical one without a pathological basis; therefore, the possibility that overlap cases might exist can-

not be ruled out, which is a limitation of this study.

The main goal of our study was not to make a definitive diagnosis of dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB) but to screen possible cases, especially in a non-specialized hospital. As shown in the results of this study, patients with a high FRI-21 score might have symptoms of DLB. Therefore, this scale will help plan more detailed investigations and facilitate following patients who might have various symptoms due to DLB.

In the future, more effective studies, such as ones including a longitudinal evaluation for overlapping cases, need to be considered.

The author states that he has no Conflict of Interest (COI).

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Reference

1. Tsujimoto M, Suzuki K, Takeda A, Saji N, Sakurai T, Washimi Y. Differentiating dementia with Lewy bodies from Alzheimer’s disease using the fall risk evaluation questionnaire. *Intern Med* **61**: 1687-1692, 2022.

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