



General Differences Between Lewy Body Dementia, Alzheimer’s disease and Parkinson’s disease

This chart is based on our experiences as caregivers for those with Lewy Body Dementia (LBD). The information is meant to be a guide to help recognize symptoms earlier and avoid misdiagnosis. This is not meant to diagnose any particular person, but to merely serve as an informational guide. In addition, many people have mixed pathologies, and there is clinical overlap.

Please be sure to consult with a neurologist.

DISEASE	MEMORY LOSS	OTHER COGNITIVE SYMPTOMS (planning, judgment, problem-solving, multitasking)	FLUCTUATIONS in Alertness and Attention (daily or day to day)	MOVEMENT PROBLEMS (slowness, stiffness, shuffling gait, balance issue)	HALLUCINATIONS AND DELUSIONS (people, animals, objects)	SLEEP ISSUES (REM Disorder, Restless Leg Syndrome, disrupted sleep, daytime sleepiness)	AUTONOMIC NERVOUS SYSTEM (orthostatic hypotension, urinary incontinence)	SENSITIVITY TO MEDICATIONS
LEWY BODY	MID-STAGE	EARLY	EARLY TO MID	EARLY	EARLY	EARLY (REM or RLS)	MID-STAGE	GENERALLY YES
ALZHEIMER’S	EARLY	MID-STAGE	LATE	LATE (balance)	MID TO LATE	EARLY TO MID	LATE	GENERALLY NO
PARKINSON’S	LATE	LATE	GENERALLY NO	EARLY	MID TO LATE	EARLY (REM or RLS)	MID TO LATE	GENERALLY NO

Important information about Lewy Body Dementia (LBD):

- LBD is an umbrella term that refers to **two** diagnoses: Dementia with Lewy Bodies (DLB) and Parkinson's Disease Dementia (PDD). Though the diagnostic criteria for DLB and PDD differ, the associated symptoms are largely the same.
- A person with LBD will generally show a continued decline in thinking, fluctuations in alertness, and movement issues (signs of Parkinsonism).
- Some people will show symptoms of both cognition and movement problems within the first year. Others may have difficulty with movement first and dementia much later on, which is more indicative of Parkinson’s Disease Dementia (PDD).
- Hallucinations and misidentification of people and objects are much more typical in LBD.
- REM sleep disorder or Restless Leg Syndrome can be very early signs of LBD.
- People with LBD tend to be very sensitive to medications, sometimes having a paradoxical reaction.
- Fluctuations are very common. At times people tend to be more alert and awake, while other times more confused, sedated, or irritable.