

**Cognitive decline in mild cognitive impairment with Lewy bodies or
Alzheimer’s disease: a prospective cohort study**

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7

8 **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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1 **ABSTRACT.**

2

3 **Objectives** We explored whether the mild cognitive impairment (MCI) stages of dementia with
4 Lewy bodies (DLB) and Alzheimer’s disease (AD) differ in their cognitive profiles, and
5 longitudinal progression.

6 **Design** A prospective, longitudinal design was utilized with annual follow-up (Max 5 years,
7 Mean 1.9, SD 1.1) after diagnosis. Participants underwent repeated cognitive testing, and review
8 of their clinical diagnosis and symptoms, including evaluation of core features of DLB.

9 **Setting** This was an observational study of independently-living individuals, recruited from local
10 healthcare trusts in North East England, UK.

11 **Participants** An MCI cohort (n = 76) aged ≥ 60 years was utilized, differentially diagnosed with
12 MCI due to AD (MCI-AD), or possible/probable MCI with Lewy bodies (MCI-LB).

13 **Measurements** A comprehensive clinical and neuropsychological testing battery was
14 administered, including ACE-R, trailmaking tests, FAS verbal fluency, and computerized battery
15 of attention and perception tasks.

16 **Results** Probable MCI-LB presented with less impaired recognition memory than MCI-AD,
17 greater initial impairments in verbal fluency and perception of line orientation, and thereafter
18 demonstrated an expedited decline in visuo-constructional functions in the ACE-R compared to
19 MCI-AD. No clear diagnostic group differences were found in deterioration speeds for global
20 cognition, language, overall memory, attention or other executive functions.

21 **Conclusions** These findings provide further evidence for differences in severity and decline of
22 visuospatial dysfunctions in DLB compared with AD; further exploration is required to clarify

- 1 when and how differences in attention, executive, and memory functions emerge, as well as
- 2 speed of decline to dementia.

1 **OBJECTIVE**

2 Lewy body (LB) and Alzheimer’s (AD) diseases are the two commonest causes of degenerative
3 dementia (1); the syndromes of dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB) or AD dementia may be
4 distinguished by physical and psychiatric symptoms (2). They also present with different patterns
5 of impairments in particular cognitive domains (3), and have been observed to decline at
6 different rates; various studies report a more aggressive course in DLB than AD in rate of
7 cognitive decline (4), mortality (5) and hospitalization (6). Consequently people with DLB have
8 poorer quality of life (7), and require more health and care resources (8). Evidence of a faster
9 cognitive decline is however mixed, with some studies finding no difference in speed of decline
10 over shorter periods (9).

11
12 Dementia in AD typically manifests in episodic memory deficits, (10) likely reflecting
13 degeneration of the medial temporal lobes (MTL) (11), though dysfunctions also occur in other
14 domains (12). DLB has relatively greater impairments in visuospatial, attentional, and executive
15 functions than AD (13, 14), and generally less severe amnesic memory impairments (15) which
16 are related to the degree of MTL atrophy (16).

17
18 Mild cognitive impairment (MCI) represents the transitional stage between healthy ageing and
19 dementia (17). MCI in AD (MCI-AD) has a predominantly amnesic cognitive presentation (18,
20 19) reflecting underlying MTL atrophy (20).

21
22 Cross-sectional data have provided preliminary information on the cognitive profiles of MCI
23 with Lewy bodies (MCI-LB) in comparison with MCI-AD and healthy controls (19, 21, 22),

1 suggesting that the DLB-like cognitive profile of greater visuospatial and executive impairment,
2 and less amnesic memory dysfunction, may already be evident at the MCI stage. There is
3 emerging evidence that the prodromal stages of DLB may differ in their cognitive trajectories
4 from an idiopathic REM sleep behaviour disorder syndrome (23), but the clinical MCI stages of
5 AD and DLB have not been compared longitudinally.

6
7 We previously reported the cross-sectional cognitive profiles in an MCI cohort differentially
8 diagnosed as MCI-LB or MCI-AD (21), finding that MCI-LB was associated with poorer
9 performance on the visuospatial component of the Addenbrooke's Cognitive Examination –
10 Revised and a line angle discrimination task, slower mean responses on a digit vigilance test, and
11 fewer responses on one, but not all, tests of verbal fluency. We aimed to utilize the longitudinal
12 data now available to better characterize the cognitive profiles and trajectories of this same
13 cohort.

14
15 We hypothesized that MCI-LB and MCI-AD would display differing trajectories of cognitive
16 decline, specifically: greater episodic memory deficits with AD, and greater impairments in
17 visuospatial, attention, and executive functions in DLB. We also hypothesized that MCI-LB
18 would show a more rapid global cognitive decline than MCI-AD, consistent with findings from
19 comparable longitudinal studies of DLB and AD (4).

20

1 **METHODS**

2 **Participants**

3 Recruitment and baseline assessment has been detailed previously (21, 24). Briefly, prospective
4 participants ($n = 90$) aged 60 or older were recruited from local healthcare trusts, and had a
5 health service clinical diagnosis of MCI defined by concern about and evidence of cognitive
6 decline in one or more domains, with preserved independent functioning and no dementia (17).
7 Additionally, they reported one or more clinical symptoms sensitive, but non-specific, to LB
8 disease (e.g., mood changes, sleep disturbance, or autonomic symptoms), or indication of the
9 presence of any core or supportive DLB features.

10

11 Participants with dementia, or Clinical Dementia Rating (CDR) of > 0.5 at baseline were
12 excluded. Based on health service clinical notes and imaging results those with possible
13 significant vascular (25) or frontotemporal (26) etiologies, or parkinsonism pre-dating cognitive
14 impairment by more than one year, were also excluded. Where possible, an informant was
15 sought (spouse, friend, or family member) to provide additional information. Potential
16 participants meeting these criteria proceeded to a consensus clinical panel diagnosis.

17

18 **Clinical diagnosis**

19 Participants and informants, where available, underwent semi-structured interview and clinical
20 assessment by the equivalent of a board-certified medical doctor (PCD). A three-person
21 consensus clinical panel of experienced Board Certified old age psychiatrists (AJT, PCD, JPT)
22 independently reviewed clinical notes taken from the baseline assessment and confirmed

1 diagnoses of MCI according to NIA-AA criteria (17). This was based on evidence of minimal
2 functional impairment (thus independent living was maintained) and a CDR of 0 or 0.5, and a
3 history of cognitive decline reported in the clinical research interview by patient and/or
4 informant which had also been identified previously in the health service. To determine the
5 likely etiology of this impairment, the presence or absence of core or suggestive LB symptoms
6 were also rated by the panel, in accordance with the third consensus criteria for DLB (27).

7
8 These symptom ratings were made blind to dopaminergic imaging findings; dopaminergic
9 function was assessed with ^{123}I -N-fluoropropyl-2 β -carbomethoxy-3 β -(4-iodophenyl) single-
10 photon emission computed tomography (FP-CIT SPECT) imaging (28). Images were
11 randomised, coded, and then visually rated as normal/abnormal by an experienced consensus
12 panel blind to clinical information and diagnosis as reported earlier (24); and incorporated into
13 diagnoses. Seventy-four of 76 participants consented to FP-CIT imaging.

14
15 Participants received a diagnosis of MCI with probable Alzheimer's disease (MCI-AD) when
16 they had no core or suggestive LB symptoms, a normal FP-CIT scan and an evidence of decline
17 which was characteristic of AD with no evidence for another etiology, i.e., they met the
18 additional NIA-AA criterion (17) of 'etiology of MCI consistent with AD pathophysiologic
19 process' (24); reported cognitive complaints being progressively degenerative, based on clinical
20 notes. As above, those classified as MCI-AD not only had no core features or biomarkers of
21 Lewy body disease but also no features supporting vascular, frontal or other aetiologies.
22 Possible MCI with Lewy bodies (possible MCI-LB) was diagnosed with either one core LB
23 symptom or abnormal FP-CIT scan, and probable MCI with Lewy bodies (probable MCI-LB)

1 diagnosed with two or more core LB symptoms, or one core symptom and abnormal
2 dopaminergic imaging. Both participants who did not consent to dopaminergic transporter
3 imaging had sufficient clinical LB symptomology for a probable MCI-LB diagnosis without
4 confirmatory biomarkers.

5
6 Seventy-seven participants completed baseline assessment and were initially included as
7 previously described (21); one was excluded during follow-up reviews due to diagnosis of a
8 frontotemporal dementia. Final participant count was therefore 76.

9
10 Participants were re-assessed every 12 months in a prospective longitudinal design.

11 Symptom presence, and severity of neurocognitive impairment (MCI or dementia) were re-
12 appraised at annual follow-ups by the clinical panel. Participants were not followed-up after
13 transition to dementia.

14
15 As the outcome measures of interest, cognitive scores or reported cognitive complaints did not
16 inform differential diagnoses; these were made on the basis of DLB diagnostic features only.

17 18 **Materials**

19 Cognitive measures

20 Repeated measures used were the Addenbrooke's Cognitive Examination-Revised (ACE-R), a
21 100-point cognitive screening test from which Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) score
22 was derived, as were domain-specific sub-scores for Attention and Orientation (0-18), Verbal

1 Fluency (0-14), Memory (0-26), Visuospatial Function (0-16), and Language (0-26). Trail
2 Making Test parts A (TMT-A) and B (TMT-B), and FAS verbal fluency were also administered
3 annually, with the latter two used to assess executive functions.

4
5 Computer-run tests included simple (SRT) and binary choice (CRT) reaction, and digit vigilance
6 (DVT) tests of attention, and a line angle discrimination task (LAT) to assess visual perception
7 (29)..

8
9 Baseline-only tasks were the Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Test (RAVLT), Graded Naming
10 Test (GNT), and computerized motion-detection task (29). These were not re-administered at
11 follow-up due to time-constraints.

12

13 Clinical measures

14 In the semi-structured interview, the MDS Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale – Motor
15 Examination (UPDRS-III), Epworth Sleepiness Scale (ESS), and Geriatric Depression Scale
16 (GDS) were administered to patients. The Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) scale,
17 North-East Visual Hallucinations Inventory (NEVHI), Neuropsychiatric Inventory (NPI), Mayo
18 Sleep Questionnaire (MSQ), Clinician Assessment of Fluctuation (CAF), and Dementia
19 Cognitive Fluctuation Scale (DCFS) were administered to informants. CDR and Cumulative
20 Illness Rating Scale for Geriatrics (CIRS-G) were completed on the basis of clinical history.

21

1 **Analysis**

2 Baseline differences

3 As reported previously (21), cross-sectional differences between groups were compared at
4 baseline using one-way ANOVA and chi-square tests.

5 Longitudinal decline

6 Linear mixed-effects modelling assessed cognitive change in the overall MCI cohort, and any
7 effect of diagnosis. Analyses were undertaken in *R* software using the packages *lme4* (30) and
8 *lmerTest* (31).

9

10 Time, as a continuous fixed effect, predicted cognitive outcome, while controlling for
11 conceptually-relevant covariates (education, age, gender). Models included random intercept and
12 slope at the subject level, allowing for correlation between these when indicated by improved
13 model fit as assessed by lowered Akaike Information Criterion (AIC). Diagnostic group was then
14 incorporated as a fixed effect, interacting with time where appropriate, in all models; in the event
15 that diagnosis did not improve model fit, an additional ‘best fit’ model is also reported to
16 describe cognitive changes in MCI across diagnostic groups.

17 Development models were fit by full maximum likelihood, and final reported models by
18 restricted maximum likelihood methods. MCI-AD is treated as the reference group for
19 comparison.

20

- 1 Significance level was defined as $p < .05$ and no adjustment was made for multiple testing given
- 2 the exploratory nature of this analysis, with domain-specific primary hypotheses requiring
- 3 independent tests.
- 4

1 RESULTS

2 Diagnostic groups

3 At the time of data locking, participants had been followed-up for a mean of 1.9 years ($SD = 1.1$,
4 $Min = 0$, $Max = 5$).

5

6 Thirty-two participants (42%) had transitioned to dementia; seven MCI-AD (30%), five possible
7 MCI-LB (42%), and 20 (49%) probable MCI-LB. Fourteen transitioned within the first year, 12
8 in the second, five in the third, and one in their fourth. All seven cases of AD dementia had been
9 previously diagnosed with MCI-AD. Of five possible DLB, three had been diagnosed as MCI-
10 AD but subsequently developed LB symptoms, and two had diagnoses of possible MCI-LB. All
11 20 cases of probable DLB had been diagnosed as probable MCI-LB. In comparison with MCI-
12 AD, a Fisher's exact test did not find diagnosis of possible MCI-LB to be significantly associated
13 with an eventual diagnosis of possible DLB rather than AD (exact $p = .152$). Probable MCI-LB
14 diagnosis was significantly associated with eventual diagnosis of probable DLB versus AD
15 (exact $p < .001$).

16 Demographics and baseline scores have been reported in detail previously (21) and are
17 summarized in **Table 1**. Diagnostic groups did not differ in age, education, or baseline global
18 cognitive function. Probable MCI-LB presented with greater functional impairment than MCI-
19 AD (lower IADL score), though all subjects had minimal impairments, as reflected by their MCI
20 diagnosis; IADL scores were correlated (Pearson's r) with UPDRS-III ($r(66) = -0.30, p = .013$)
21 but not ACE-R total scores ($r(66) = 0.07, p = .568$) suggesting that these related to motor, not
22 cognitive, impairments. MCI-AD were mostly female, and probable MCI-LB mostly male.
23 Higher daytime sleepiness (ESS), motor impairment (UPDRS-III), and neuropsychiatric
24 symptomology (NPI, GDS-15, NEVHI, CAF, and DCFS) were found in probable MCI-LB; this
25 was expected as these relate to the symptoms used for differential diagnosis (**Table 2**), as was a
26 higher rate of self-reported hyposmia.

27 **Longitudinal change: global cognitive function**

28 To test the hypothesis that LB symptomology would have a faster decline than AD, a model was
29 developed incorporating diagnosis as a fixed effect (**Figure 1**) predicting ACE-R total score; this
30 did not improve model fit. This full model, and alternate best-fitting model, are reported (**Table**
31 **3**). Diagnostic groups did not significantly differ in their initial global cognition, or their decline.

32

33 **Domain-specific function**

34 This method was repeated for domain-specific measures. Estimates for ACE-R sub-scores are
35 reported in **Table 3**, including diagnosis (full model), interacting with time where appropriate.
36 Best-fit models are also reported in **Table 3** when diagnosis was not observed to have an effect

37 as indicated by no improvement in model fit. Age, gender, and education were included as
38 covariates in all cases.

39

40 Attentional functions (ACE-R Attention & Orientation) significantly declined over time, but
41 there was no effect of diagnosis, with no improvement in model fit.

42

43 Overall memory (ACE-R Memory) did not decline over time; incorporating diagnosis did not
44 improve model fit, and diagnoses did not differ in their initial profiles or time-trajectories.

45

46 Verbal fluency significantly declined in MCI. In the full model, probable MCI-LB was
47 associated with poorer verbal fluency (ACE-R Fluency) than MCI-AD, with a corresponding
48 improvement in model fit.

49

50 Speech and language (ACE-R Language) declined significantly over time. Including diagnosis
51 did not improve fit; there were no differences between groups in initial language impairment or
52 declines thereafter.

53

54 For visuospatial functions (ACE-R Visuospatial), including diagnosis as a fixed effect interacting
55 with time provided best fit (**Table 3**). Although probable MCI-LB had a lower baseline
56 visuospatial sub-score, the error term around this was quite large. MCI-AD patients did not
57 significantly decline in visuospatial performance over time, however probable MCI-LB had a
58 significantly expedited decline in comparison to MCI-AD (**Figure 2**). Possible MCI-LB did not
59 significantly differ in baseline visuospatial performance or rate of decline compared to MCI-AD.

60

1 As overall ACE-R memory score is a composite of various tasks; we also examined specific
2 scores to explore memory patterns in-depth. Diagnostic groups did not differ in their registration
3 or un-cued recall of information; performance in these sub-domains was not predicted by age,
4 education, or gender, and did not significantly decline over time. In recognition of learned
5 information, there was a significant difference at baseline between probable MCI-LB, and MCI-
6 AD, with the former performing better in the full model, with an associated improvement in
7 model fit (**Table 4**). Recognition memory did not display any clear time trend overall, nor any
8 group differences in decline.

9
10 To explore visuospatial decline more clearly, ACE-R visuospatial totals were decomposed into
11 visuo-constructional (pentagon and cube copying, and clock drawing), and perceptual scores
12 (letter identification and dot-counting), each marked out of eight. There was no significant time
13 trend in visuo-perceptual performance, no effect of age, education, or gender, and no influence of
14 diagnostic status; none of these improved model fit. Visuo-constructional performance was
15 significantly influenced by diagnosis with both main effect and time interaction indicated by
16 improved model fit (**Table 4**); probable MCI-LB performed poorer at baseline, and deteriorated
17 at a faster rate than MCI-AD. After controlling for baseline function post hoc, without interaction
18 with time (as indicated by AIC), the pattern of faster decline in probable MCI-LB remained
19 (Fixed effect estimate for time x diagnosis interaction: $\beta = -0.7$, $SE = 0.30$, $t(45) = -2.296$, $p =$
20 $.026$), suggesting that the declining trend was not just an artefact of the lower starting function in
21 probable MCI-LB.

22

1 To adequately assess visuo-perception, a secondary model examined line-angle task
2 performance, which showed utility in a previously reported cross-sectional study (21), and was
3 administered repeatedly. Higher values reflect poorer angle discrimination (in degrees) and
4 therefore worse performance. LAT performance was best predicted by the inclusion of diagnosis,
5 without time-interaction (**Table 4**). Genders significantly differed in performance, with males
6 better able to discriminate angle differences than females, but did not differ in their progressions.
7 Probable MCI-LB was associated with significantly poorer angle judgement than MCI-AD at
8 baseline. There was no significant time trend in LAT performance, and no interaction of time
9 with other effects. There were few repeated observations ($n = 132$), limiting the ability to
10 estimate changes over time.

11
12 Repeated measurements were also available for FAS verbal fluency; in the full model, probable
13 MCI-LB had significantly poorer performance at baseline after controlling for covariates (**Table**
14 **4**). There was no significant time effect, or interaction with diagnosis. Diagnostic status was
15 retained in the best-fit model. As with the LAT, repeated measures were taken but observations
16 were limited ($n = 130$).

17
18 For TMT-A, completion time was best predicted by models incorporating age and education as
19 non-interacting effects (**Table 4**); including diagnosis improved fit, but diagnostic effects were
20 non-significant. Completion times progressively slowed over time in the overall group. For
21 TMT-B there was no effect of diagnostic group. In both, higher education was associated with
22 faster- and higher age with slower completion.

23

1 Mean and SD of correct response times in both simple and choice reaction tests, and digit
2 vigilance task, were not significantly predicted by age, education, or gender. Incorporating
3 diagnosis did not improve model fits. Reaction times did not clearly improve or worsen over
4 time and there were no differences in profiles or trajectories between the diagnostic groups.

5 **DISCUSSION**

6 There was no clear difference in rates of global cognitive decline between diagnostic subgroups,
7 contrary to our hypothesis, but as hypothesized, probable MCI-LB was associated with a faster
8 deterioration in aspects of visuospatial function as assessed by the ACE-R. We did not observe
9 different rates of decline in attentional or executive functions between groups.

10

11 Overall memory performance did not differ between groups, either in initial impairment or
12 decline thereafter. In exploratory analyses MCI-AD displayed poorer recognition memory than
13 probable MCI-LB, but these did not differ in their progressions.

14

15 The more severe pattern and trajectory of visuo-constructional impairment in probable MCI-LB
16 aligns with previous findings in dementia (13, 14, 29), Parkinson's disease (32) and MCI (19,
17 33), and may reflect disruption to cortical (34, 35) and sub-cortical (36) visual systems in DLB.

18 While the ACE-R appears insensitive to visuo-perceptual decline in MCI, group differences are
19 evident at baseline with the line angle discrimination task, suggesting that relatively pure
20 perceptual tests might be valuable in assessing earlier visuospatial impairments in MCI.

21

22 Probable MCI-LB did not deteriorate faster in global cognitive function than MCI-AD,
23 consistent with some (9), but not all (4) findings from the respective dementia stages, which did

24 not support our hypothesis; this could suggest that an accelerated decline occurs in DLB later
25 than at the MCI stage. Alternatively, total score in the ACE-R may not account for global
26 cognitive decline in MCI-LB and MCI-AD equally given their different patterns of domain-
27 specific cognitive impairment; ACE-R sub-scores are not equally weighted towards total score,
28 or equally sensitive to dysfunction, and so may underestimate the relative contributions of some
29 domains to global cognitive impairment. Further exploration may establish whether MCI-LB
30 also has a comparable rate of dementia onset as MCI-AD, or if the faster expected decline
31 manifests in faster loss of independent function after onset of cognitive impairment.
32 Furthermore, our subject numbers are modest, and longer follow-up may be required to identify
33 differences in decline.

34
35 These results help resolve some of the previously reported inconsistencies between two different
36 tests of verbal fluency (21); after controlling for relevant covariates and undertaking repeated
37 measurement, ACE-R verbal fluency sub-score and FAS letter-fluency were consistent in finding
38 greater impairments of verbal fluency in probable MCI-LB than in MCI-AD.

39
40 It was expected that MCI-LB would be associated with less memory impairment than MCI-AD.
41 This hypothesis was only partially supported; while overall memory scores did not show this
42 pattern, recognition-specific memory was worse in AD than probable MCI-LB. These results
43 partially reflect previously observed patterns of memory impairments in AD and DLB, as
44 assessed with dedicated verbal learning tests (14, 37), with DLB displaying difficulties with
45 encoding and recall but relatively preserved recognition, in comparison with the rapid
46 ‘forgetting’ associated with AD.

47
48 The unexpected lack of progressive decline in memory may be partially explained by floor
49 effects, or repeated practice and familiarity with common screening tests, such as the ACE-R.
50 Comparison with a healthy control cohort may clarify whether practice effects are contributing,
51 and if observed declines in language and attention are related to neurodegenerative processes, or
52 normal aging. This would also afford the opportunity to characterise cognitive profile
53 categorically, for example as amnesic or non-amnesic (19), in comparison to healthy normative
54 data.

55
56 Intended for dementia screening, ACE-R sub-scores may be insensitive to domain-specific
57 decline in MCI. More sensitive and less familiar tests may be suitable for this purpose, such as
58 computerized testing batteries. While the RAVLT was administered, there were insufficient
59 repeated observations to develop a longitudinal model; repeated assessment with a suitable
60 memory test may better demonstrate how memory progresses over the course of MCI.

61
62 Our findings are from a thoroughly-assessed prospectively-recruited longitudinal MCI cohort,
63 differentiated by clinical diagnostic features, and these results provide important preliminary data
64 on disease-specific patterns of cognitive impairment, and progressions over the course of MCI
65 with LB versus AD. However, as participants were identified based on their reported presence of
66 possible symptoms of DLB, the MCI-AD group may not be entirely representative of the typical
67 presentation of MCI in AD. MCI-AD participants had repeated, detailed clinical assessment and
68 normal FP-CIT scans, but it remains possible that some of these patients could be cases of early
69 DLB, with cognitive impairment preceding the appearance of core clinical features; this is

70 corroborated by the emergence of LB symptoms in three MCI-AD patients who consequently
71 were diagnosed with possible DLB. There is a need for clinically-classified MCI cases to
72 undergo neuropathological validation of these differential diagnoses.

73

74 Using multiple domain-specific tests, these results are limited by the use of independent tests
75 without adjustment for multiple comparisons, and limited improvement of model fit in some
76 domains; there is a need for replication of these findings, and future research with larger samples
77 may benefit from the use of multivariate methods to succinctly describe multi-domain change.

78

79 The characteristics of possible MCI-LB remain unclear as they did not differ from MCI-AD in
80 cognitive performance. Given the limited sample size, there may be a lack of statistical power to
81 identify any real differences from MCI-AD or probable MCI-LB. Further exploration may
82 establish how LB symptomology develops over time in this cohort, how this affects progression,
83 and where possible MCI-LB diagnoses fit into this picture, as ‘possible’ diagnoses may include
84 early-stage low-symptomatic MCI-LB cases, or atypical presentations of MCI-AD such as those
85 with false-positive FP-CIT imaging.

86

87 While some MCI cases demonstrate a clear cognitive decline towards dementia over the course
88 of this study, others remain stable for many years; this could be explained by the existence of
89 sub-groups with differing progressions. Specific clinical features, demographics, medical history,
90 or biomarkers may be associated with steeper or flatter trajectories of cognitive decline.

91 Although differences were found between diagnostic groups in some cognitive domains, in only

92 a handful of analyses was diagnostic status found to be a valuable predictor of function under the
93 more parsimonious model-fitting criteria.

94

95 While the differences between AD and DLB in verbal fluency, visuospatial functions, and
96 recognition memory may already be observed in their respective MCI stages, with visuospatial
97 functions also declining faster in the latter, expected differences in other executive functions,
98 memory encoding and recall, attention, and global decline are not yet apparent at this stage and
99 require further exploration. Repeated testing with appropriately sensitive visuospatial,
100 recognition memory, and fluency tests may therefore be appropriate in the assessment of
101 cognitive decline in MCI-LB.

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- 103 CAH: Analysis, drafting, critical revision, final approval, agreement to accountability
- 104 FEM: Interpretation, critical revision, final approval, agreement to accountability
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- 112 JL: Design, acquisition, critical revision, final approval, agreement to accountability
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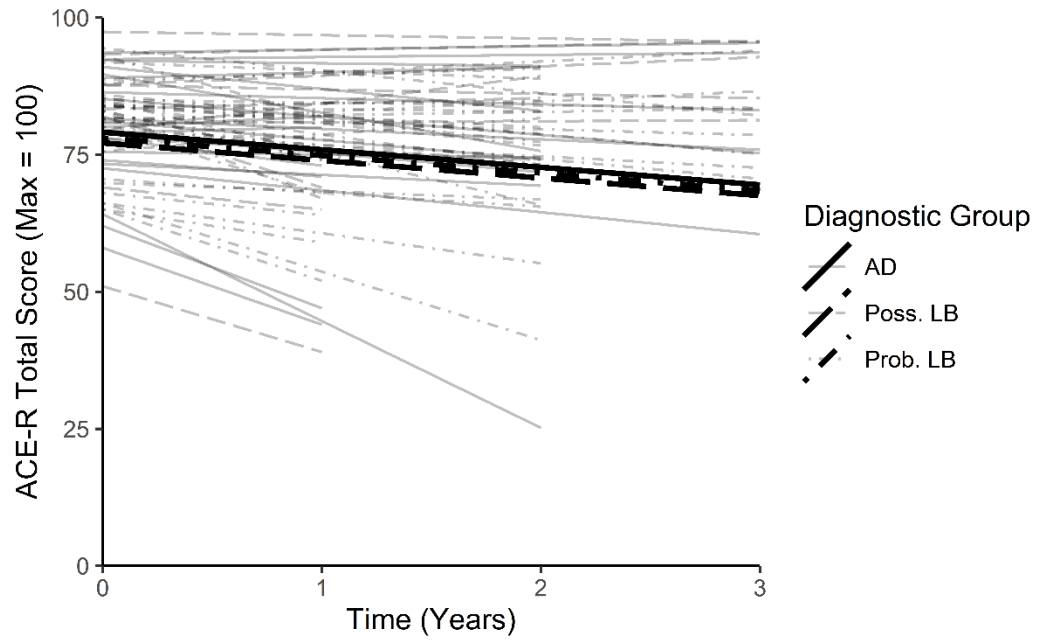
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211 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

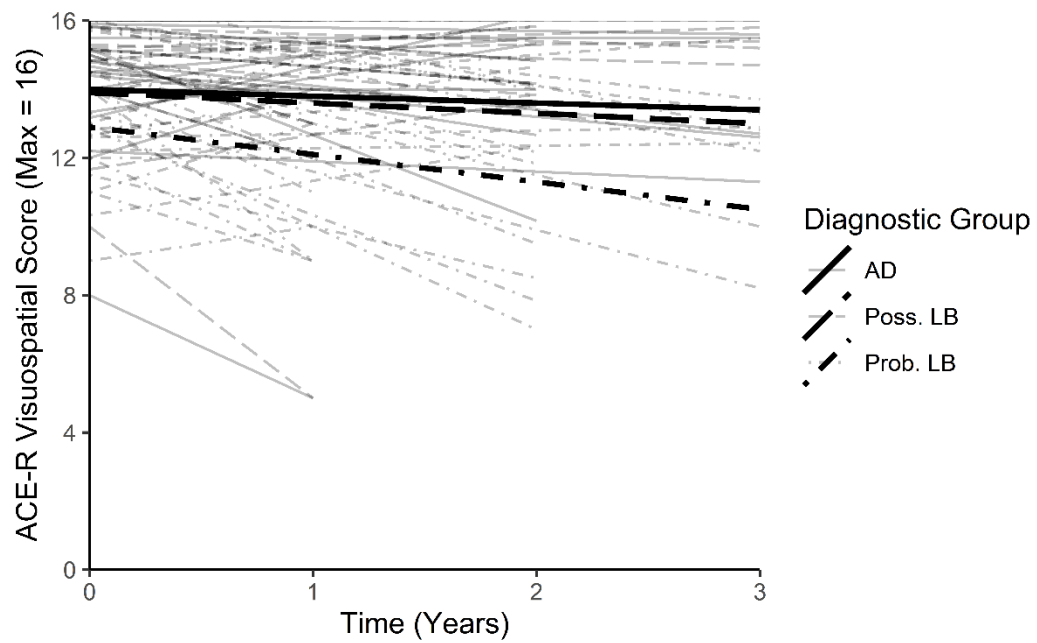


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213 Figure 1. ACE-R total score trajectories in individuals and clinically-defined mild cognitive

214 impairment (MCI) subgroups

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216

217 Figure 2. ACE-R visuospatial function trajectories in individuals and clinically-defined mild

218 cognitive impairment (MCI) subgroups

219

220 **Table 1. Baseline demographic, clinical, and cognitive information for MCI subgroups: count (%) for**
 221 **frequency data; mean (SD) or median (IQR) for scales; omnibus test *p* value**

<i>Demographics and clinical measures</i>	MCI-AD	Poss. MCI-LB	Prob. MCI-LB	<i>p</i>
<i>N</i>	23	12	41	-
Female	15 (65%)	5 (42%)	14 (34%)	.055
Male	8 (35%)	7 (58%)	27 (66%)	-
Age	78.2 (7.5)	75.3 (7.3)	75.5 (7.6)	.335
Years in Education	11.9 (3.0)	10.8 (2.1)	11.4 (2.8)	.531
CDR Total (0-3), Median	0.5 (0)	0.5 (0)	0.5 (0)	.206
IADL Total (0-8)	7.2 (0.9)	6.6 (1.6)	6.1 (1.7)	.038
CIRS-G Total (0-56)	9.2 (4.0)	12.1 (5.2)	9.1 (4.1)	.097
MSQ Q1 'Yes'	3 (13%)	2 (17%)	20 (49%)	.095
ESS (0-24)	4.2 (3.7)	6.8 (4.9)	10.4 (5.0)	<.001
GDS (0-15)	2.4 (2.2)	2.9 (2.7)	4.4 (3.6)	.039
UPDRS-III (4-73)	15.0 (7.1)	14.0 (7.8)	26.2 (16.2)	.001
NPI Total (0-144)	5.8 (7.0)	12.9 (13.2)	13.7 (9.8)	.021
NEVHI (0-30)	1.0 (2.8)	1.3 (3.4)	3.4 (4.4)	.031
CAF (0-16)	0.3 (1.0)	2.0 (2.5)	2.4 (2.9)	.019
DCFS (4-20)	5.6 (1.6)	7.4 (2.3)	8.9 (3.2)	<.001
Lost Sense of Smell	4 (17%)	2 (17%)	19 (46%)	.026
<i>Cognitive measures</i>				
MMSE (0-30)	26.5 (2.3)	26.2 (2.9)	26.5 (2.0)	.901
ACE-R Total (0-100)	79.5 (11.70)	79.3 (14.1)	79.3 (8.3)	.996
ACE-R Att./Orient. (0-18)	17.0 (1.4)	16.6 (2.1)	16.8 (1.4)	.745

ACE-R Memory (0-26)	15.7 (5.8)	15.8 (5.9)	17.4 (4.4)	.356
ACE-R Fluency (0-14)	9.7 (2.7)	8.2 (3.3)	7.9 (2.8)	.041
ACE-R Language (0-26)	22.9 (3.3)	24.1 (2.9)	23.6 (2.1)	.385
ACE-R Visuospatial (0-16)	14.2 (1.9)	14.7 (1.9)	13.5 (2.1)	.125
FAS Fluency (0+)	36.2 (13.1)	26.5 (16.3)	29.0 (14.5)	.093
Rey Delayed Recall (0-15)	3.1 (4.3)	2.5 (2.6)	3.9 (3.1)	.438
Rey Recognition (0-15)	12.0 (2.3)	10.3 (3.6)	11.7 (2.3)	.184
Rey % Trial 5 Recalled	35.2 (39.0)	37.5 (40.0)	53.9 (50.6)	.253
GNT (0-30)	16.5 (6.8)	20.3 (5.9)	17.6 (5.7)	.223
TMT-A Time (seconds)	67 (40)	47 (21)	73 (36)	.104
TMT-B Time (seconds)	152 (83)	153 (109)	165 (94)	.897
SRT Mean (ms)	406 (149)	410 (177)	403 (155)	.993
CRT Mean (ms)	678 (131)	747 (355)	730 (250)	.642
DVT Mean (ms)	555 (75)	534 (72)	584 (72)	.074
LAT Discrimination (°)	18 (13)	14 (8.7)	26 (16)	.026
Motion Task Score (max 1)	0.70 (0.28)	0.67 (0.28)	0.65 (0.28)	.784

222 *Gender, MSQ Q1, Question 1 of the Mayo Sleep Questionnaire “Have you ever seen the patient*
223 *appear to “act out his/her dreams” while sleeping? (punched or flailed arms in the air, shouted*
224 *or screamed)”, Lost Sense of Smell, self-reported in clinical interview, Chi-squared test, df = 2;*
225 *Age, Years in Education, CIRS-G, Cumulative Illness Rating Scale for Geriatrics, MMSE, Mini-*
226 *Mental State Examination, ACE-R total and sub-tests, Addenbrooke’s Cognitive Examination –*
227 *Revised, Att./Orient., Attention & Orientation, GNT, Graded Naming Test, ANOVA F-test, df =*
228 *2, 73;*
229 *CDR Total, Clinical Dementia Rating Total, Kruskal-Wallis Chi-squared test, df = 2;*

230 *IADL, Instrumental Activities of Daily Living, ANOVA F-test, $df = 2, 65$, Tukey HSD-corrected*
231 *multiple comparisons: Possible MCI-LB vs. MCI-AD $p = .588$, Probable MCI-LB vs. MCI-AD p*
232 *= .031;*
233
234
235 *ESS, Epworth Sleepiness Scale, ANOVA F-test, $df = 2, 73$, Tukey HSD-corrected multiple*
236 *comparisons: Possible MCI-LB vs. MCI-AD $p = .244$, Probable MCI-LB vs. MCI-AD $p < .001$;*
237 *GDS, Geriatric Depression Scale, ANOVA F-test, $df = 2, 73$, Tukey HSD-corrected multiple*
238 *comparisons: Possible MCI-LB vs. MCI-AD $p = .901$, Probable MCI-LB vs. MCI-AD $p = .041$;*
239 *UPDRS, Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale – Part III, ANOVA F-test, $df = 2, 73$, Tukey*
240 *HSD-corrected multiple comparisons: Possible MCI-LB vs. MCI-AD $p = .972$, Probable MCI-*
241 *LB vs. MCI-AD $p = .004$;*
242 *NPI, Neuropsychiatric Inventory, ANOVA F-test, $df = 2, 65$, Tukey HSD-corrected multiple*
243 *comparisons: Possible MCI-LB vs. MCI-AD $p = .150$, Probable MCI-LB vs. MCI-AD $p = .017$;*
244 *NEVHI, North-East Visual Hallucinations Inventory, ANOVA F-test, $df = 2, 73$, Tukey HSD-*
245 *corrected multiple comparisons: Possible MCI-LB vs. MCI-AD $p = .957$, Probable MCI-LB vs.*
246 *MCI-AD $p = .038$;*
247 *CAF, Clinician Assessment of Fluctuation, ANOVA F-test, $df = 2, 65$, Tukey HSD-corrected*
248 *multiple comparisons: Possible MCI-LB vs. MCI-AD $p = .202$, Probable MCI-LB vs. MCI-AD p*
249 *= .014;*
250 *DCFS, Dementia Cognitive Fluctuation Scale, ANOVA F-test, $df = 2, 65$, Tukey HSD-corrected*
251 *multiple comparisons: Possible MCI-LB vs. MCI-AD $p = .216$, Probable MCI-LB vs. MCI-AD p*
252 *< .001;*

253

254 *ACE-R Fluency, Tukey HSD-corrected multiple comparisons: Possible MCI-LB vs. MCI-AD p =*

255 *.270, Probable MCI-LB vs. MCI-AD p = .033;*

256 *Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Test Delayed Recall, Recognition, % Trial 5 Recalled, TMT-A,*

257 *Trailmaking Test Part A, ANOVA F-test, df = 2, 71;*

258 *TMT-B, Trailmaking Test Part B, ANOVA F-test, df = 2, 44;*

259 *SRT, Simple Reaction Task, CRT, Choice Reaction Task, DVT, Digit Vigilance Task, Motion*

260 *Task, ANOVA F-test, df = 2, 72.*

261 *LAT, Line Angle Task, ANOVA F-test, df = 2, 66, Tukey HSD-corrected multiple comparisons:*

262 *Possible MCI-LB vs. MCI-AD p = .733, Probable MCI-LB vs. MCI-AD p = .116.*

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Table 2. Baseline DLB clinical feature presence in diagnostic groups.

	MCI-AD	Poss. MCI-LB	Prob. MCI-LB
Parkinsonism	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	19 (46%)
Cognitive Fluctuations	0 (0%)	4 (33%)	23 (56%)
REM Sleep Behaviour Disorder	0 (0%)	5 (42%)	20 (49%)
Complex Visual Hallucinations	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	12 (29%)
Abnormal FP-CIT SPECT	0 (0%)	3 (25%)	26 (67%) ^a

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279
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^aTwo participants did not consent to FP-CIT SPECT, but had sufficient clinical symptomology to receive a probable MCI-LB diagnosis without confirmatory biomarkers

281 **Table 3. Fixed effect coefficient estimates for best fit and full models (including diagnostic group, interacting with time where**
282 **appropriate) for ACE-R total score and domain sub-scores**

	Intercept ⁺	Change from intercept					Time	Interaction with time	
	MCI-AD	Possible MCI-LB	Probable MCI-LB	Education	Age	Gender Male	MCI-AD	Possible MCI-LB	Probable MCI-LB
ACE-R Total									
Best fit	83.4 (10.60); 46, < .001	No difference from MCI-AD		0.6 (0.31); 63, .041	-0.15 (0.13); 48, .257	-0.4 (1.96); 45, .856	-3.2 (0.55); 38, < .001	No difference from MCI- AD	
Full model	85.3 (11.25); 50, < .001	-2.0 (2.97); 42, .500	-1.1 (2.25); 45, .630	0.6 (0.32); 62, .064	-0.16 (0.13); 51, .243	-0.05 (2.06); 46, .981	-3.2 (0.55); 38, < .001	No difference from MCI- AD	
ACE-R Attention & Orientation									
Best fit	16.1 (1.91); 90, < .001	No difference from MCI-AD		0.06 (0.06); 98, .292	0.001 (0.02); 88, .961	-0.2 (0.35); 90, .623	-1.2 (0.19); 44, < .001	No difference from MCI- AD	
Full model	16.3 (2.0); 87, < .001	-0.3 (0.53); 87, .616	-0.2 (0.40); 88, .686	0.06 (0.06); 96, .349	0.00005 (0.02); 86, .999	-0.1 (0.37); 88, .721	-1.5 (0.19); 44, < .001	No difference from MCI- AD	
ACE-R Memory									
Best fit	22.6 (6.60); 74, .001	No difference from MCI-AD		0.2 (0.18); 115, .397	-0.1 (0.08); 71, .189	0.4 (1.21); 73, .756	-0.1 (0.22); 54, .807	No difference from MCI- AD	
Full model	21.2 (6.83); 73, .003	0.4 (1.81); 70, .810	1.6 (1.36); 70, .251	0.2 (0.19); 115, .353	-0.1 (0.08); 69, .222	0.01 (1.26); 71, .991	-0.1 (0.22); 55, .785	No difference from MCI- AD	
ACE-R Verbal Fluency									

Best fit	8.8 (3.56); 73, .015	-0.9 (0.95); 70, .322	-1.5 (0.71); 71, .032	0.3 (0.10); 111, .004	-0.04 (0.04); 70, .403	-0.2 (0.66); 71, .734	-0.2 (0.12); 81, .015	No difference from MCI- AD	
ACE-R Language									
Best fit	26.3 (3.05); 70, < .001	No difference from MCI-AD		0.15 (0.09); 106, .088	-0.06 (0.04); 69, .110	-0.04 (0.56); 70, .942	-0.5 (0.14); 46, < .001	No difference from MCI- AD	
Full model	25.4 (3.14); 69, < .001	1.3 (0.83); 65, .130	0.5 (0.63); 68, .465	0.18 (0.09); 101, .051	-0.06 (0.04); 67, .134	-0.2 (0.58); 67, .716	-0.5 (0.14); 44, < .001	No difference from MCI- AD	
ACE-R Visuospatial									
Best fit	12.8 (2.72); 68, < .001	-0.04 (0.72); 67, .955	-1.0 (0.54); 67, .081	0.1 (0.08); 86, .130	-0.003 (0.03); 68, .933	0.7 (0.50); 67, .166	-0.2 (0.23); 38, .420	-0.1 (0.37); 30, .830	-0.6 (0.28); 34, .036

283

284 ⁺Unstandardized coefficient (SE); t-statistic degrees of freedom, p value

285 **Table 4. Fixed effect coefficient estimates for ACE-R visuo-construction and recognition memory sub-scores, line angle**
 286 **discrimination task (LAT; °) and executive function tests; Trail Making Test completion times (seconds) and FAS total score**
 287 **(number of words generated)**

288

	Intercept [†]		Change from intercept				Time	Interaction with time	
	MCI-AD	Possible MCI-LB	Probable MCI-LB	Education	Age	Gender Male	MCI-AD	Possible MCI-LB	Probable MCI-LB
ACE-R Visuo-Construction									
Best fit	5.3 (2.29); 71, .024	0.3 (0.61); 68, .623	-0.9 (0.46); 69, .045	0.1 (0.07); 88, .134	-0.004 (0.03); 69, .875	0.8 (0.42); 70, .054	-0.1 (0.19); 36, .713	-0.1 (0.31); 32, .739	-0.6 (0.24); 36, .018
ACE-R Recognition Memory									
Best fit	3.5 (1.13); 63, .003	0.0 (0.29); 63, .993	0.5 (0.22); 66, .035	0.1 (0.03); 74, .108	-0.01 (0.01); 63, .670	-0.1 (0.21); 64, .759	0.1 (0.07); 18, .429	No difference from MCI-AD	
LAT									
Best fit	32.9 (18.58); 68, .081	-4.5 (4.92); 70, .360	9.9 (3.66); 71, .008	-0.9 (0.56); 71, .120	-0.01 (0.22); 69, .971	-9.9 (3.41); 72, .005	3.0 (2.17); 26, .178	No difference from MCI-AD	
TMT-A									
Best fit	-54.2 (41.67); 66, .198	-21.7 (10.85); 64, .050	2.3 (8.23); 66, .785	-3.9 (1.23); 69, .002	2.1 (0.50); 65, <.001	15.4 (7.56); 65, .046	13.0 (5.15); 32, .017	No difference from MCI-AD	
TMT-B									
Best fit	-72.1 (105.60); 44, .498	No difference from MCI-AD		-12.8 (3.30); 53, <.001	4.9 (1.30); 46, <.001	31.9 (19.72); 46, .113	6.1 (6.28); 36, .341	No difference from MCI-AD	
Full model	-98.0 (112.2); 43, .387	2.6 (26.91); 41, .922	18.4 (22.99); 40, .428	-12.2 (3.42); 52, <.001	5.0 (1.33); 44, <.001	28.0 (20.59); 42, .181	5.7 (6.28); 35, .374	No difference from MCI-AD	
FAS Total									

Best fit	14.4 (16.91); 69, .399	No difference from MCI-AD		2.2 (0.50); 93, < .001	-0.1 (0.20); 69, .605	-1.4 (3.12); 70, .662	0.2 (0.68); 69, .725	No difference from MCI- AD
Full model	24.2 (17.05); 68,.160	-9.0 (4.50); 68, .050	-7.2 (3.40); 69, .037	2.0 (0.49); 91, <.001	-0.2 (0.20); 67, .439	0.5 (3.15); 68, .879	0.3 (0.67); 70, .688	No difference from MCI- AD

289 ⁺*Unstandardized coefficient (SE); t-statistic degrees of freedom, p value*

