

Low Frequency Of Dementia With Lewy Body in Colombia

- Follow-up of the Latin American Experience

P3 - 13

Authors: Felipe Botero-Rodriguez, Miguel Borda, Juan Camilo Castro, José Manuel Santacruz-Escudero, Carlos Cano, Dag Aarsland - Centre for Age-Related Medicine (SESAM), SUS.

DLB remains critically underdiagnosed in Latin America. The LBCRS is a sensitive screening tool, and depressive symptoms show sex-specific links to cognition across Lewy body and Alzheimer's disease.

Introduction

DLB prevalence in Latin America appears lower than in other regions, raising concerns of underdiagnosis. Following a very low DLB rate (0.67%) in a Colombian memory clinic, we assessed the LBCRS over 6 months to evaluate DLB frequency and screening performance. Neuropsychiatric symptoms identification remains challenging due to fluctuation and overlap between LBD and AD, with important gaps persisting in the relationship between depressive symptoms and cognitive performance according to sex.

We **aim** to evaluate DLB frequency and LBCRS screening performance, and to examine the association between depressive symptoms and cognitive performance in LBD and AD across sexes in three countries.

Methods

Study 1 — LBCRS Screening: Prospective screening of 592 consecutive patients at a Colombian memory clinic. Patients were screened with the LBCRS and administered to caregivers. DLB diagnosis was established by multidisciplinary consensus using McKeith 2017 criteria. Three cohorts were analyzed: total (n=592), dementia (n=584), and non-dementia (n=8).

Study 2 — Depression & Cognition: Cross-sectional study including LBD and AD patients from three centers in Spain (CUN, n=102), Colombia (HUSI, n=390), and Norway (DemVest, n=196). Multiple linear regression models examined the association between depressive symptoms (GDS) and cognitive performance (MMSE), adjusting for age and education, with analyses stratified by sex.

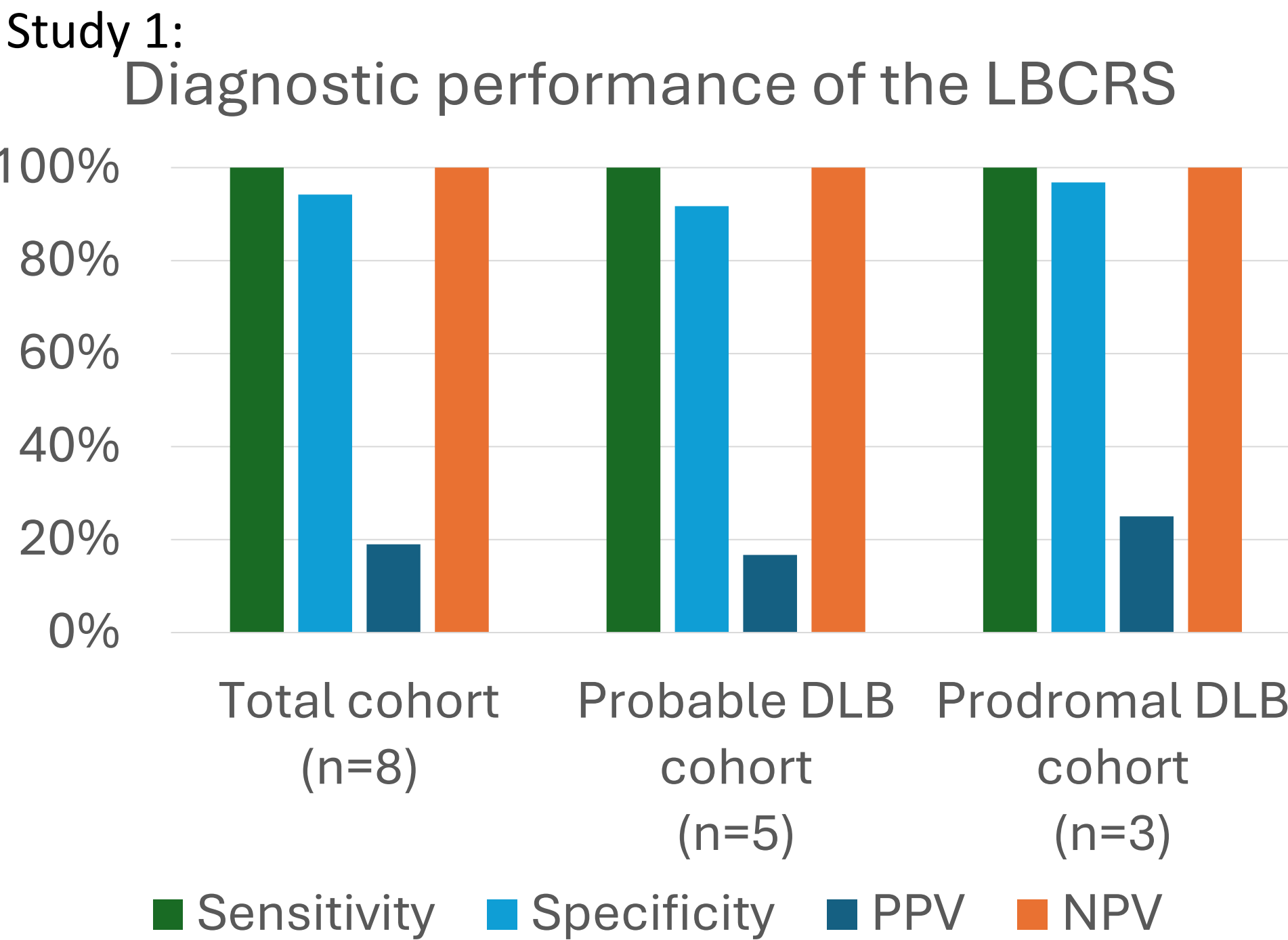
Results

Study 1:

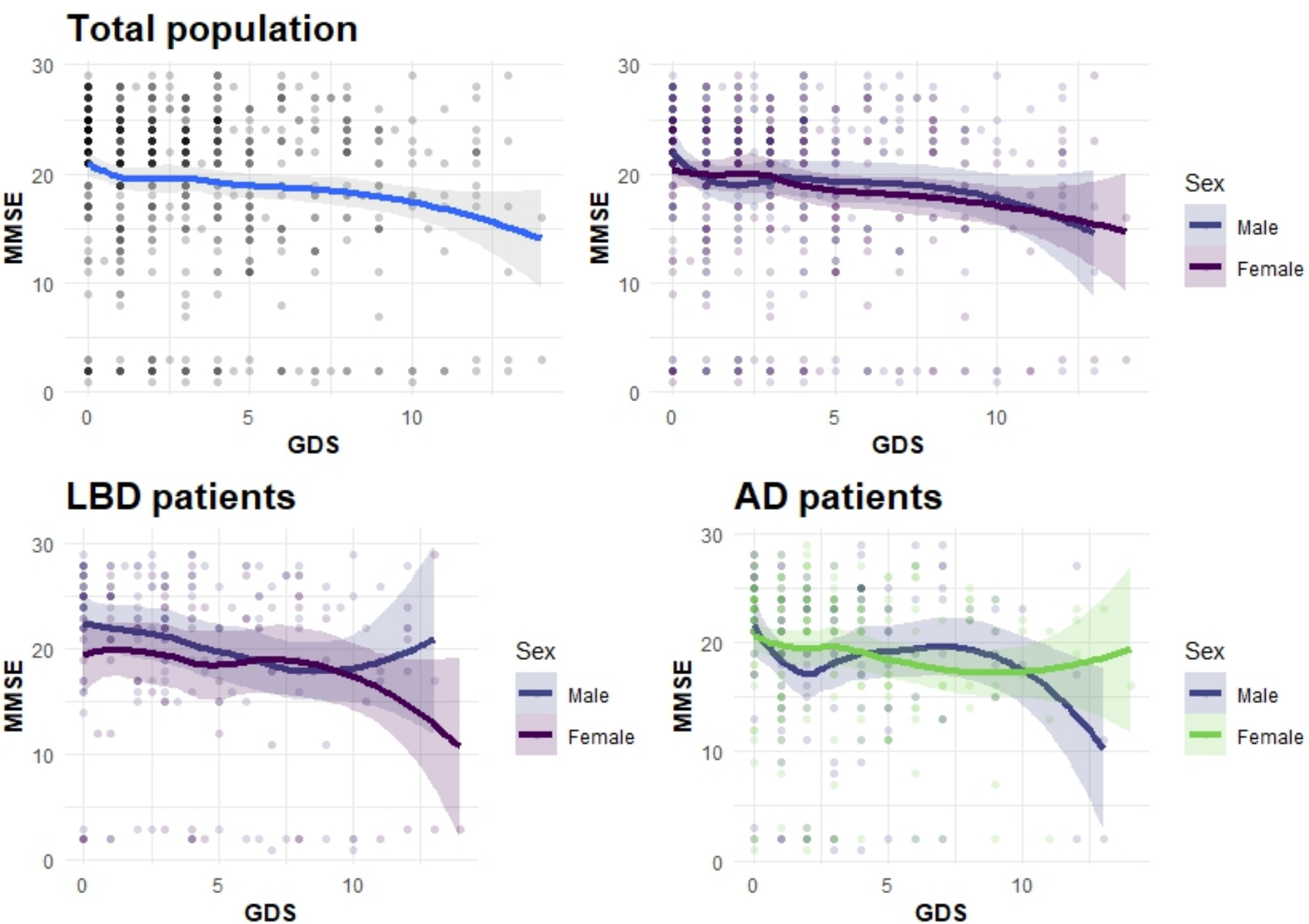
- Of 592 patients, 5 (0.84%) had probable DLB by consensus diagnosis; potentially 8 including 3 borderline PDD cases.
- LBCRS showed 100% sensitivity, 94.2% specificity, 19% PPV, and 100% NPV.
- 42 patients (7.1%) screened LBCRS-positive, but most had other diagnoses such as AD or vascular dementia.

Study 2:

- 688 patients were included across three countries.
- Higher depressive symptoms were associated with lower MMSE scores across all sites and diagnoses.
- After stratifying by sex, all associations retained their original direction and significance.
- Explained variance was higher in males, highlighting relevant sex differences in the depression–cognition link.



Study 2: Depression and Cognition association by sex



Conclusions

- DLB frequency was very low (0.84%) in Colombia, consistent with regional underdiagnosis patterns.
- LBCRS demonstrated excellent sensitivity (100%) and specificity (94.2%), supporting its value as a screening tool in memory clinics.
- Depressive symptoms were inversely associated with cognitive performance across LBD and AD, with sex- and disease-specific patterns warranting a sex-informed approach to dementia assessment.

References:

- *Mov. Disord. Clin. Pract.* 2026; 13(2): 442–451.
- *Alzheimers Dement* 2015: 316–324.
- *Nat Aging.* 2022;2(4): 295-302.
- *Alzheimers Dement.* 2023;19(4): 1372-82.

Acknowledgments:

Big thanks to World Young Leaders in Dementia (WYLD) and the International Society to Advance Alzheimer's Research and Treatment (ISTAART) for supporting me to attend this conference.

