Emergency Treatment of Psychosis in LBD

Psychotic symptoms such as visual hallucinations of people or animals, or misidentifying one’s spouse or one’s home are common in LBD. The goal of addressing these symptoms is to ensure the safety of the patient and others.

**WARNING**

Up to 50% of patients with LBD who are treated with any antipsychotic medication may experience severe neuroleptic sensitivity (worsening cognition, heavy sedation, increased or possibly irreversible parkinsonism, or symptoms resembling neuroleptic malignant syndrome which can be fatal).

1. Identify possible etiologies of delirium, e.g., pain, infection, metabolic stress, alcohol withdrawal.
2. Reduce or eliminate anticholinergic medications, such as OTC sleep agents and bladder-control medications, and reduce dopaminergic drugs used to treat Parkinson’s disease, if clinically indicated.
3. Consult with a doctor experienced in treating LBD. Cholinesterase inhibitor drugs may improve cognition and psychiatric symptoms, although such effects are not usually immediate.
4. Antipsychotic agents may be indicated if psychotic symptoms are severe and pose a significant safety risk. **AVOID traditional antipsychotic agents (e.g., haloperidol).** Newer atypical antipsychotic agents (e.g., quetiapine, clozapine) should only be used with caution at the lowest dose possible, under close supervision of a physician and an RN, and should be switched to a safer medication as soon as possible.

A more comprehensive physician’s guide to treating behavioral disturbances in LBD patients can be found at www.lbda.org/go/ER.
I have a disorder of the brain known as LEWY BODY DEMENTIA (LBD) which could make me appear confused and have difficulty moving or speaking normally.

Please call my family or my physician!

My Name:_____________________________________
Address:_____________________________________
_____________________________________________

Person to Call:_______________________________
Address:_____________________________________
_____________________________________________

Phone:_______________________________________
Physician:___________________________________
Phone:_______________________________________
Allergies:___________________________________
Other Medical Conditions:_____________________

The information on this card is intended for general informational use only. It is not intended to be medical advice or to take the place of competent medical professionals who are familiar with a particular patient’s situation. Each individual is advised to make an independent judgement regarding the content and the use of this information.

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