

***The Virtual Assessment in Lewy Body Dementia: Pandemic and Beyond Webinar Series
The Approach to Clinical Care Via Telemedicine***

March 4, 2021

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – Response

1. Is there a comprehensive resource that speaks to all the symptoms of Lewy Body dementia?
 - a. *The course directors would like to direct healthcare professionals to the LBDA.org- Healthcare Professionals resource that has a comprehensive list of symptoms and other useful resources <https://www.lbda.org/symptoms-2/>. Additionally, the DIAMOND-Lewy assessment and management toolkits are very comprehensive. <https://research.ncl.ac.uk/diamondlewy/assessmenttoolkits/>*
2. The distinction between the Lewy body diseases, Dementia with Lewy bodies and Parkinson's disease with Dementia, can be difficult in clinical practice as the presentations of patients vary greatly. How do you approach the diagnosis when the presentation does not fit neatly with either diagnostic criteria?
 - a. *This is certainly difficult, even among experts, and represents a controversial topic in the field. It may be helpful to think of the two disease as a spectrum of disease given they share clinical and pathological features. (Richard et al., 2002 and Goldman et al., 2014)*
3. Why do you add 1 pt when scoring for the MoCA or MoCA-BLIND for those with less than 12 years of education?
 - a. *In the validation studies, the authors added one point to account for differences observed attributable to education (Nasreddine et al., 2005).*
4. Thoughts on how to account for differences in score on cognitive assessment tools that may be attributable to being in home setting (ie, orientation questions)?
 - a. *Great point. There have been a few studies looking at the reliability, feasibility, and validation of the remote application of the MoCA (these studies are referenced and can be found here: <https://www.mocatest.org/remote-moca-testing/>). Larger, validation studies comparing in-home assessment versus in-office assessment are needed to determine if being at home affects the validity of the assessment.*
5. When giving a diagnosis of Lewy body dementia in the home setting, how can you ensure that they are ready to receive the diagnosis or if they would want others present?
 - a. *It is vital to have excellent communication before the encounter, during the encounter, and following the encounter. It is important to take time to assess one's readiness to hear a diagnosis and ask if there are others that they would want present. You can send an email before with the link for the visit that specifically addresses this point to help for comfort. You may alternatively ask the patient during the visit if they wish to reschedule a follow-up visit to allow others to be present for more discussion.*