LEWY BODY DISEASE (LBD)

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

There are two types of dementia associated with LBD: Dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB) and Parkinson’s disease dementia (PDD). In DLB, individuals develop cognitive problems either before or at the same time as parkinsonism (slower movements/walking, muscle stiffness, tremors), or parkinsonism may not occur at all. Both DLB and PDD can affect visual/spatial abilities, planning, problem-solving, and reasoning. Memory problems are not common in early DLB or PDD.

CAUSES & RISK FACTORS

LBD arises from abnormal deposits of a protein called alpha-synuclein in the brain. Parkinson’s disease and rapid eye movement (REM) sleep behavior disorder (unusual acting out of dreams) are linked to a greater risk of LBD.

BEHAVIORAL CHANGES

Individuals with LBD may also have fluctuating attention and alertness, visual hallucinations, and changes in personality. Individuals with LBD are also very sensitive to certain drugs, called neuroleptics.

See signs? Talk to your doctor. For more information about LBD: www.lbda.org