

# Differential diagnostic value of total alpha-synuclein assay in the cerebrospinal fluid between Alzheimer's disease and dementia with Lewy bodies from the prodromal stage

Olivier BOUSIGES (✉ [olivier.bousiges@chru-strasbourg.fr](mailto:olivier.bousiges@chru-strasbourg.fr))

Hopitaux universitaires de Strasbourg <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6786-3191>

**Nathalie Philippi**

Hopitaux universitaires de Strasbourg

**Thomas Lavaux**

Hopitaux universitaires de Strasbourg

**Armand Perret-Liaudet**

Hospices Civils de Lyon

**Ingolf Lachmann**

AJ Roboscreen

**Caroline Schaeffer-Agalède**

Hopitaux universitaires de Strasbourg

**Pierre Anthony**

Hopitaux Civils de Colmar

**Anne Botzung**

Hopitaux universitaires de Strasbourg

**Lucie Rauch**

Hopitaux universitaires de Strasbourg

**Barbara Jung**

Hopitaux universitaires de Strasbourg

**Paulo Loureiro de Sousa**

Laboratoire ICube

**Catherine Demuynck**

Hopitaux universitaires de Strasbourg

**Catherine Martin-Hunyadi**

Hopitaux universitaires de Strasbourg

**Benjamin Cretin**

Hopitaux universitaires de Strasbourg

**Frédéric Blanc**

Hopitaux universitaires de Strasbourg

---

## Research

**Keywords:** dementia with Lewy bodies, Alzheimer's disease, prodromal, dementia, cerebrospinal fluid biomarkers, total alpha-synuclein

**Posted Date:** July 16th, 2020

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-18905/v3>

**License:**  This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. [Read Full License](#)

**Version of Record:** A version of this preprint was published on September 29th, 2020. See the published version at <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13195-020-00684-5>.

## Abstract

**Background:** Several studies have investigated the value of alpha-synuclein assay in the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) of Alzheimer's disease (AD) and dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB) patients in the differential diagnosis of these two pathologies. However, very few studies have focused on this assay in AD and DLB patients at the MCI stage.

**Methods:** All patients were enrolled under a hospital clinical research protocol from the tertiary Memory Clinic (CM2R) of Alsace, France, by an experienced team of clinicians. A total of 166 patients were included in this study: 21 control subjects (CS), 51 patients with DLB at the prodromal stage (pro-DLB), 16 patients with DLB at the demented stage (DLB-d), 33 AD patients at the prodromal stage (pro-AD), 32 AD patients at the demented stage (AD-d) and 13 patients with mixed pathology (AD+DLB). CSF levels of total alpha-synuclein were assessed using a commercial enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for alpha-synuclein (AJ Roboscreen). Alzheimer's biomarkers (t-Tau, P-Tau, A $\beta$ 42 and A $\beta$ 40) were also measured.

**Results:** The alpha-synuclein assays showed a significant difference between the AD and DLB groups. Total alpha-synuclein levels were significantly higher in AD patients than in DLB patients. However, the ROC curves show a moderate discriminating power between MA and DLB (AUC = 0.78) which does not improve the discriminating power of the combination of Alzheimer biomarkers (AUC = 0.95 with or without alpha-synuclein). Interestingly, the levels appeared to be altered from the prodromal stage in both AD and DLB.

**Conclusions:** The modification of total alpha-synuclein levels in the CSF of patients occurs early, from the prodromal stage. The adding of alpha-synuclein total to the combination of Alzheimer's biomarker does not improve the differential diagnosis between AD and DLB.

**Trial registration:** ClinicalTrials.gov, ([AlphaLewyMa](#), Identifier: NCT01876459)

## Background

Dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB) is the most frequent dementia after Alzheimer's disease (AD). The clinical diagnosis of DLB is well defined and regularly revised (1-4). Despite the prevalence of DLB, only one third of patients are correctly diagnosed, leaving two-thirds of these patients undiagnosed or misdiagnosed (5). DLB is complicated to diagnose due to its similarity to AD and Parkinson's disease (PD). DLB is close to AD because of cognitive decline (episodic memory, working memory, executive functions) and to PD because of parkinsonism and for the pathophysiological aspect because of the alpha-synuclein ( $\alpha$ -syn) aggregation. What happens first in DLB is the cognitive decline, which explains the frequent misdiagnosis with AD. Furthermore, the cognitive and motor symptoms found in DLB can be found in other diseases, which makes differential diagnosis complex. Like other neurodegenerative diseases, DLB progresses insidiously and slowly to a demented state. We now know the importance of early treatment in neurodegenerative disease. Consequently, when effective treatment arrives on the market, we will need to be able to treat patients at a prodromal stage. It is therefore important to be able to diagnose these patients early.

The prodromal stage of DLB (pro-DLB), also called mild cognitive impairment due to Lewy bodies (MCI-LB) has recently been described in detail: the first criteria of this prodromal stage are similar to the stage of dementia with the difference that decrease in functional capacity is either non-existent or minimal (6).

It is challenging to diagnose DLB at an early stage and, if we add to this the neurological comorbidities that are common in the elderly and more particularly with DLB (7), it is easy to understand the difficulty in diagnosing this type of disease. For all these reasons it is clear that specific biomarkers need to be found to allow the differential diagnostic of DLB.

To date, many studies have focused on biomarkers used in clinical routine, i.e. Alzheimer's biomarkers (t-Tau, P-Tau, A $\beta$ 42, A $\beta$ 40; for a review, see (8)). These studies have shown the great interest of these biomarkers, especially t-Tau, P-Tau and the ratio A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40, in the differential diagnosis between AD and DLB, especially at the prodromal stage, where the differential diagnosis is even more delicate (9, 10).

DLB and PD, as well as multiple system atrophy (MSA), have one thing in common, namely the  $\alpha$ -syn aggregation leading to Lewy body formation. That is why these pathologies are part of a group of disorders known as synucleinopathies. Based on these

aggregative phenomena and on the way in which amyloid and Tau biomarkers are used in AD, these  $\alpha$ -syn-related proteins could be of interest in the differential diagnosis of DLB. Studies that have included the measurement of total  $\alpha$ -syn are relatively numerous and not always consensual.

The aim of our study was therefore to determine the discriminating ability of the  $\alpha$ -syn assay in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), without or in combination with the standard AD-related biomarkers, between DLB and AD patients, in both demented and mild cognitive impairment (MCI) patients.

## Methods

### *Patients*

All patients were enrolled under a hospital clinical research protocol called AlphaLewyMA (registered in ClinicalTrials.gov: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01876459>) from the tertiary Memory Clinic (CM2R) of Alsace by an experienced team of neurologists, geriatricians and neuropsychologists between June 2013 and June 2018. The CM2R of Alsace comprises 3 different centers, two at the University Hospitals of Strasbourg (*CHU Hautepierre* and *Hôpital de la Robertsau*) and one at *Hôpitaux Civils de Colmar*. Patients underwent detailed clinical evaluation, a large neuropsychological evaluation, blood examination, brain MRI (3 Tesla), and lumbar puncture for CSF biomarkers as previously described (11).

DLB patients were selected according to McKeith's criteria (probable DLB, based on the existence of two core symptoms in addition to cognitive decline) for DLB demented (DLB-d) and prodromal DLB (pro-DLB) patients also called mild cognitive impairment with Lewy bodies (MCI-LB) (3, 6). To note Parkinsonism is present in 81.6% of the pro-DLB patients. However, Parkinsonism is in any case very subtle. For information, fluctuations were assessed with the Mayo Clinic Fluctuations Scale (12). The Hallucinations Parkinson's disease-associated psychotic symptoms questionnaire was used to evaluate the presence of hallucinations (13). RBD was evaluated using a questionnaire based on the article by Gjerstad et al., 2008 (14), simplified into two questions for the patient and the caregiver, one concerning movements during sleep and the other concerning vivid dreams and nightmares.

Patients with AD were selected according to Albert's criteria (15) and Dubois' criteria (16) for patients with pro-AD and McKhann's criteria (17) and Dubois' criteria (16) for demented AD patients.

Patients were considered to have DLB and AD when they meet both the Dubois' criteria and the McKeith's criteria concurrently. For example, a patient with memory storage disorders, a CSF in favour of AD and two of the four clinical criteria for DLB was considered to have both DLB and AD.

Table 1 summarizes the main clinical information of the patients at the time of lumbar puncture. A total of 166 patients were included in this study: 21 control subjects (CS group), 51 patients with DLB at the prodromal stage (pro-DLB group), 16 patients with DLB at the demented stage (DLB-d group), 33 AD patients at the prodromal stage (pro-AD group), 32 AD patients at the demented stage (AD-d group) and 13 patients with both the criteria of AD and criteria of probable DLB (3), divided into two groups (pro-AD/DLB group [n = 2] and AD/DLB-d group [n = 11]; data of the latter two groups were analyzed separately from the data of patients with pure AD or pure DLB (see flowchart in Fig. 1). The CS group consisted of patients originally included in the study with cognitive disorders as found in AD and DLB, who, after follow-up in the study, were found to have neither AD nor DLB. The CS group had various diagnoses, defined according to international criteria (for details, see Table 1).

### *CSF samples and analysis*

CSF samples were obtained by lumbar puncture in the context of the AlphaLewyMA protocol in a diagnostic workup for suspected cognitive decline and underwent a standard protocol (i.e. they were collected in polypropylene tubes [Sarstedt, ref.: 62.610.201] to decrease adsorption of A $\beta$  into the test tubes). Each CSF sample was transported to the laboratory within 4 hours after collection; the sample was homogenized on receipt at the laboratory and was then centrifuged at 1700 g for 10 min at room temperature. All samples were free of blood contamination (the samples were checked visually; if a stain in the sample was detected, the sample was not measured). Samples were then transferred in 0.5-mL polypropylene tubes (Dutscher ref.: 033283) and stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  until analysis. CSF A $\beta$ 42, A $\beta$ 40, t-Tau, and phospho-tau<sub>181</sub> were measured by sandwich enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) using commercially available kits (INNOTEST®; Fujirebio Europe, Ghent, Belgium). All assays were performed according to the

manufacturer's instructions and the methodology did not change during the period in which the analyses were performed. Note that for A $\beta$ 1–40, we did not have the same number of patients as for the other biomarkers, either because the dosage was not done systematically or because there was insufficient CSF available to perform an additional A $\beta$ 40 assay. For this parameter, 77 patients had a dosage of A $\beta$ 40 and were distributed as follows: CS group: n=10, pro-DLB group: n=28, DLB-d group: n=7, pro-AD group: n=17, AD-d group: n=9, pro-AD/DLB group: n=1, AD/DLB-d group: n=5.

These CSF assays were run as routine clinical neurochemical analyses by technicians trained in CSF analysis at the biochemistry laboratory of University Hospital of Strasbourg. Furthermore, the laboratory participates in the quality control (QC) worldwide program organized by the Alzheimer's Association QC program for CSF biomarkers. Of note, our results are acceptable in comparison with the other laboratories, thereby further ensuring the quality of the results. Moreover, two internal QC samples per parameter were included in ELISA tests to control for inter-assay variation. Inter-assay coefficients of variations were 2.5%–8.7% for A $\beta$ 42, 4.4%–8.3% for t-Tau, 4.9%–16.4% for phospho-Tau<sub>181</sub> and 1.5%–9.0% for A $\beta$ 40. The intra-assay variability observed in replicates was less than 10% in all four biomarkers.

The cut-offs used were, therefore, for A $\beta$ 42: 500 ng/L (reduced levels were considered pathological); for t-Tau (depending on age): 300 ng/L (< 50 years old), 450 ng/L (50–70 years old), 500 ng/L (> 70 years old); for phospho-Tau<sub>181</sub>: 60 ng/L; for t-Tau and phospho-Tau<sub>181</sub> increased levels were considered pathological. For the ratio A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40 the cut-off used was 0.05; reduced levels were considered pathological.

CSF levels of total  $\alpha$ -syn were assessed using a commercial ELISA for  $\alpha$ -syn (hSYN total ELISA; AJ Roboscreen GmbH, Leipzig, Germany) designed and validated for quantification of total  $\alpha$ -syn in human CSF (14). The assay uses a monoclonal capture antibody recognizing amino acids 119 to 126 and a detection antibody to the C-terminus of  $\alpha$ -syn. Linearity of the assay is described between 50 and 600 pg/mL. Intra-assay variability of 4.5% was calculated from duplicate analyses and expressed as median of the range to average of the duplicates. Inter-assay imprecision was determined using two quality-control CSF pool samples, low control: 10.5%, high control: 3.7%.

### *Statistical analysis*

Statistical analyses were carried out using Graph-Pad PRISM, V.8 (GraphPad, San Diego, CA, USA). Normally distributed data were analyzed using one-way analysis of variance with Tukey's post hoc analyses to determine between-group differences. In the case of non-Gaussian-distributed parameters, we used the Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's multiple comparison test. In the case of contingency analyses, a  $\chi^2$  test was used. Receiver-operating characteristic (ROC) curve analysis was employed to evaluate the diagnostic value of CSF parameters. ROC curve comparisons were performed using MedCalc, V.12.7.0 (MedCalc Software, Ostend, Belgium).

## **Results**

The study population's demographic characteristics and mean CSF biomarker values (A $\beta$ 42, A $\beta$ 40, t-Tau, phospho-Tau<sub>181</sub> and  $\alpha$ -syn) are presented in Table 1. It should be noted that for the comparison of the different parameters studied, the pro-AD/DLB group was excluded from the analyses due to the small number of patients. In summary, for t-Tau, the pro-AD, AD-d and AD/DLB-d groups had higher values compared to the CS, pro-DLB and DLB-d groups (see Table 1). For P-Tau, the profile was very similar to that of t-Tau. For A $\beta$ 42, there was no significant difference between the CS group and the pro-DLB group but these two groups were significantly different from the pro-AD, AD-d and AD/DLB-d groups, which all had lower values. However, the DLB-d group was not significantly different from the CS, pro-DLB, pro-AD, AD-d and AD/DLB-d groups. For A $\beta$ 40, there were no differences between the group. The ratio A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40 was not significantly different between the CS, pro-DLB and DLB-d groups; mean values for the pro-DLB group were significantly higher when compared to each of the AD groups (pro-AD, AD-d and AD/DLB-d) and those of CS group were significantly higher compared to the pro-AD and AD/DLB-d groups, whereas those of the DLB-d group were not significantly different from each of the other groups (Table 1).

### *A-syn biomarker profile*

The results of the  $\alpha$ -syn assay are presented in Figure 2A. No differences were observed between the CS and any of the other groups. A-syn values were similar between the pro-DLB and DLB-d groups and between the pro-AD, AD-d and AD/DLB-d groups. Interestingly there was a significant difference between the DLB and AD groups (pro-AD > pro-DLB and DLB-d,  $p < 0.001$ ; AD-d > pro-DLB,  $p < 0.05$ ).

Thus, we observed that the changes in  $\alpha$ -syn levels according to pathologies (AD or DLB) appeared from the prodromal stages. For this reason, to discriminate between AD and DLB, the analysis of the diagnostic efficacy of  $\alpha$ -syn by ROC curve, we have pooled the prodromal stages with the demented stages (Fig. 2B and C). The discrimination power of  $\alpha$ -syn between the 2 diseases remains moderate (AUC = 0.78, Se = 72.3 and Sp = 76.1 for a 139 ng/L criterion) (Fig. 2B and C and Table 2).

#### *Biomarker combinations*

Even if the discrimination power of total  $\alpha$ -syn seems moderate, it is interesting to determine if, combined with Alzheimer biomarkers, it improves this discrimination power between these two pathologies. As we have previously shown (9, 10), the t-Tau, phospho-Tau and A $\beta$ 42 combination was very effective in discriminating between these two diseases (AUC = 0.95 for DLB-(pro+d) vs AD-(pro+d); Table 2) but unfortunately the addition of  $\alpha$ -syn did not improve this differential diagnosis (AUC = 0.95 for DLB-(pro+d) vs AD-(pro+d); Table 2); the same applies if A $\beta$ 42 is replaced by the ratio A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40 (t-Tau\_phospho-Tau\_A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40 AUC = 0.95; t-Tau\_phospho-Tau\_A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40\_t- $\alpha$ -syn AUC = 0.95 for DLB-(pro+d) vs AD-(pro+d); Table 2).

## Discussion

In summary, the power of  $\alpha$ -syn to discriminate between AD and DLB can be considered moderate (Table 2), as previously reported (17-19). However, our study shows that the differences observed between AD and DLB appear from the prodromal stage.

Our study has a limitation in that we do not know the exact concentration of hemoglobin in our samples. Indeed, it has been shown that hemoglobin plays a role in  $\alpha$ -syn levels in the CSF (20-23). These studies have shown that beyond 200-500 ng/mL (depending on the study) hemoglobin leads to an artificial increase by interfering with the  $\alpha$ -syn assay. However, our samples were visually inspected upon arrival at the laboratory and any samples with pink coloration due to the presence of hemoglobin were rejected. This control is reported to eliminate hemorrhagic samples with more than 500 red cells per  $\mu$ L (24). Furthermore, on arrival at the laboratory, samples were centrifuged at 1700 g for 10 min to eliminate as many blood cells as possible that could have contaminated the CSF, thus limiting hemoglobin levels in our samples.

#### *Early modification of $\alpha$ -syn levels*

Regarding the results of the total  $\alpha$ -syn assay, we found a significant difference between the DLB group and the AD group. Similar results have previously been highlighted in many publications (18, 19, 24-29), with  $\alpha$ -syn levels being higher in AD patients compared to DLB patients. These results have even been confirmed in an autopsy series of patients (30).

The originality of our results is to show that, at the prodromal stage, AD patients had significantly higher  $\alpha$ -syn levels than DLB patients. So far, only one recent publication has looked at the prodromal stage and has shown results similar to ours (31); however, in that study there were no patients at the demented stage. Thus we have highlighted more precisely the absence of any change in  $\alpha$ -syn levels between the prodromal and dementia stages whatever the pathology (AD or DLB). Thus, total  $\alpha$ -syn levels are modified from the prodromal stages (Fig. 2A), suggesting that changes in  $\alpha$ -syn levels are implemented early.

#### *Ability of $\alpha$ -syn to discriminate between neurological controls and DLB and AD patients*

$\alpha$ -syn levels of our control subjects were not significantly different from the AD and DLB groups, most likely because of the different neurological pathologies in this group, which made it heterogeneous. In the same way in the literature, it is usually the case that DLB patients were not significantly different from controls (18, 19, 25, 27, 29) (32-36), but a number of publications showed significantly lower levels of  $\alpha$ -syn in DLB patients compared to control patients (28, 30, 37, 38). Garcia-Ayllon et al. even showed that this decrease could take place from the DLB prodromal stage (31).

Interestingly, even if some studies, like ours, showed CSF  $\alpha$ -syn levels that were numerically higher, but not significantly so, in AD patients than in CS patients (22), most studies comparing CS patients and AD patients showed that total  $\alpha$ -syn levels were significantly higher in AD patients (20, 22, 25, 28, 39), suggesting an  $\alpha$ -syn increase in AD patients. On the other hand, by observing the group of patients with AD+DLB co-morbidity, it can be seen that the mean  $\alpha$ -syn values were at the same level as those of the pure AD groups. This result reinforces the idea that the change in  $\alpha$ -syn levels in the CSF is related to an  $\alpha$ -syn increase in AD rather than an  $\alpha$ -syn decrease in DLB. There are several possible explanations for this increase in AD patients. First,  $\alpha$ -syn could be released from damaged neurons (40, 41), as has been hypothesized for the increased levels of CSF tau in AD. Second, an increase in  $\alpha$ -syn production was confirmed by Larson et al, who highlighted a 1.67-fold increase in  $\alpha$ -syn mRNA levels in the inferior temporal gyrus of AD patients, when compared to age-matched controls, leading to an increase in  $\alpha$ -syn monomers even though these AD patients did not have detectable Lewy bodies (42). Thus, the increase in  $\alpha$ -syn production in the brains of AD patients is believed to be responsible for its increase in CSF. In addition, it has been shown that high levels of  $\alpha$ -syn may cause cognitive deficits by reducing the release of neurotransmitters by inhibiting the recycling of synaptic vesicles (43). Thus, it is likely that these increases in soluble  $\alpha$ -syn (even in monomeric form) in the brains of AD patients are the source of an important correlate of decreased cognitive function in AD.

As DLB patients also have neuronal damage, it may seem surprising that there is no  $\alpha$ -syn increase in DLB patients. There are two possible explanations for this. First, the aggregating processes of  $\alpha$ -syn present in DLB patients are responsible for the decrease in  $\alpha$ -syn levels in the CSF, as observed for A $\beta$ 42 in AD. The second explanation is that for the same level of cognitive impairment, DLB patients have less neurodegeneration than AD patients (44, 45), which may explain the lower value in DLB patients.

#### *The different proteinopathies have synergistic adverse effects*

Thus, while AD patients have amyloid plaques and DLB patients have Lewy bodies, CSF of AD patients presents an  $\alpha$ -syn level increase and CSF of DLB patients an A $\beta$ 42 decrease. These results indicate that these pathologies seem to be related in one way or another, which would explain the high frequency of co-morbidities, or at least histological hallmarks commonly found between these 2 pathologies. More than 80% of DLB patients showed moderate or abundant cortical amyloid plaques (46), and  $\alpha$ -synuclein pathology is also found in up to 50% of patients with AD (for a review, see (47)), suggesting a close link between amyloidopathy and synucleinopathy. In addition, other publications indicate that Tau protein may also have a negative synergy with amyloidopathy and synucleinopathy (48, 49), reinforcing the close link between these different neurodegenerative diseases.

#### *Ability of the combination of $\alpha$ -syn with standard AD-related biomarkers to discriminate DLB from AD*

ROC curves (Table 2) show that even combining  $\alpha$ -syn results with Alzheimer biomarkers does not improve the discrimination power compared to the combination of Alzheimer biomarkers alone (t-Tau\_phospho-Tau\_A $\beta$ 42 or A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40, AUC=0.95, Alzheimer biomarkers +  $\alpha$ -syn AUC=0.95). However, this result needs to be put into perspective given that the CSF's Alzheimer biomarkers are taken into account in the diagnosis, leading to a bias due to an overestimation of the discrimination effectiveness of these Alzheimer biomarkers. Despite taking into account the CSF result, some patients, particularly those clinically considered as Alzheimer's, present an atypical CSF profile. However, we are quite confident in the diagnosis, in fact, some patients have started to be included in the study from 2013 and consequently we have a relatively long follow-up of these patients, which has allowed us to reclassify some of them.

To conclude, the total  $\alpha$ -syn assay can participate to discriminate between DLB and AD patients, whatever the stage, but with insufficient specificity and sensitivity. Thus, there is currently a clear lack of new biomarkers specific to DLB for its differential diagnosis. However, other biomarkers are under study. While some are directly related to  $\alpha$ -syn, such as the  $\alpha$ -syn oligomers, fibrils or phosphorylation on S129 of  $\alpha$ -syn, there are other post-translational modifications or even biomarkers which are unrelated to the direct aggregation processes of  $\alpha$ -syn, such as YKL-40, neurogranin, VILIP-1 (for review, see (8)); yet these biomarkers suffer from a lack of hindsight to determine if they are actually relevant in the biological diagnosis of DLB. Further studies are therefore needed to confirm these results.

## **Declarations**

**Ethics approval and consent to participate:** CPP Est IV, Eudract 2012-A00992-41 / HUS 5330

**Consent for publication:** Not applicable

**Availability of data and materials:**

All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this published article

**Competing interests**

Ingolf Lachmann provided the ELISA alpha-synuclein kits and reports that he is an employee of AJ Roboscreen GmbH®, Leipzig, Germany.

Funding: PHRC Interregional

**Authors' contributions**

OB, TL, APL, and FB: study concept and design, analysis of the results, and drafting the manuscript. OB, TL: statistical analyses. CSA: biological measurements. IL: supplier of alpha-synuclein ELISA kits for the company AJ Roboscreen. APL: organization and analyses of the alpha-synuclein kit validation. OB, TL, APL, IL: analyses of biological measurements, and contribution to data interpretation and revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content. AB, LR, BJ, FB: study protocol design. PLS: implementation and management of MRI acquisitions. NP, PA, CD, CMH, BC, FB: clinical work, organization of lumbar punctures, diagnosis confirmation, and contribution to data interpretation and revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content.

**Acknowledgements**

The authors would especially like to thank Analytik Jena Roboscreen for graciously donating the alpha-synuclein ELISA kits.

## List Of Abbreviations

α-syn: alpha-synuclein

AD: Alzheimer's disease

AD-d: AD demented

CS: control subjects

CSF: cerebrospinal fluid

DLB: dementia with Lewy bodies

DLB-d: DLB demented

FCSRT: Free and Cued Selective Reminding Test

MCI: mild cognitive impairment

MMSE: Mini Mental State Examination

Phospho-Tau<sub>181</sub>: Tau phosphorylated on residue 181

Pro-AD: prodromal AD

Pro-DLB: prodromal DLB

RBD: rapid eye movement sleep behavior disorder

TMT: Trail Making Test (A or B)

## References

1. McKeith IG, Galasko D, Kosaka K, Perry EK, Dickson DW, Hansen LA, et al. Consensus guidelines for the clinical and pathologic diagnosis of dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB): report of the consortium on DLB international workshop. *Neurology*. 1996;47(5):1113-24.
2. McKeith IG, Ballard CG, Perry RH, Ince PG, O'Brien JT, Neill D, et al. Prospective validation of consensus criteria for the diagnosis of dementia with Lewy bodies. *Neurology*. 2000;54(5):1050-8.
3. McKeith IG, Dickson DW, Lowe J, Emre M, O'Brien JT, Feldman H, et al. Diagnosis and management of dementia with Lewy bodies: third report of the DLB Consortium. *Neurology*. 2005;65(12):1863-72.
4. McKeith IG, Boeve BF, Dickson DW, Halliday G, Taylor JP, Weintraub D, et al. Diagnosis and management of dementia with Lewy bodies: Fourth consensus report of the DLB Consortium. *Neurology*. 2017;89(1):88-100.
5. Nelson PT, Jicha GA, Kryscio RJ, Abner EL, Schmitt FA, Cooper G, et al. Low sensitivity in clinical diagnoses of dementia with Lewy bodies. *J Neurol*. 2010;257(3):359-66.
6. McKeith IG, Ferman TJ, Thomas AJ, Blanc F, Boeve BF, Fujishiro H, et al. Research criteria for the diagnosis of prodromal dementia with Lewy bodies. *Neurology*. 2020;94(17):743-55.
7. Jellinger KA, Attems J. Prevalence and pathology of dementia with Lewy bodies in the oldest old: a comparison with other dementing disorders. *Dement Geriatr Cogn Disord*. 2011;31(4):309-16.
8. Bousiges O, Blanc F. Diagnostic value of cerebro-spinal fluid biomarkers in dementia with lewy bodies. *Clin Chim Acta*. 2019;490:222-8.
9. Bousiges O, Cretin B, Lavaux T, Philippi N, Jung B, Hezard S, et al. Diagnostic Value of Cerebrospinal Fluid Biomarkers (Phospho-Tau181, total-Tau, Abeta42, and Abeta40) in Prodromal Stage of Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia with Lewy Bodies. *J Alzheimers Dis*. 2016;51(4):1069-83.
10. Bousiges O, Bombois S, Schraen S, Wallon D, Quillard MM, Gabelle A, et al. Cerebrospinal fluid Alzheimer biomarkers can be useful for discriminating dementia with Lewy bodies from Alzheimer's disease at the prodromal stage. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry*. 2018;89(5):467-75.
11. Kemp J, Philippi N, Phillipps C, Demuynck C, Albasser T, Martin-Hunyadi C, et al. Cognitive profile in prodromal dementia with Lewy bodies. *Alzheimers Res Ther*. 2017;9(1):19.
12. Ferman TJ, Boeve BF, Smith GE, Lin SC, Silber MH, Pedraza O, et al. Inclusion of RBD improves the diagnostic classification of dementia with Lewy bodies. *Neurology*. 2011;77(9):875-82.
13. Fenelon G, Soulas T, Zenasni F, Cleret de Langavant L. The changing face of Parkinson's disease-associated psychosis: a cross-sectional study based on the new NINDS-NIMH criteria. *Mov Disord*. 2010;25(6):763-6.
14. Gjerstad MD, Boeve B, Wentzel-Larsen T, Aarsland D, Larsen JP. Occurrence and clinical correlates of REM sleep behaviour disorder in patients with Parkinson's disease over time. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry*. 2008;79(4):387-91.
15. Albert MS, DeKosky ST, Dickson D, Dubois B, Feldman HH, Fox NC, et al. The diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's disease: recommendations from the National Institute on Aging-Alzheimer's Association workgroups on diagnostic guidelines for Alzheimer's disease. *Alzheimers Dement*. 2011;7(3):270-9.
16. Dubois B, Feldman HH, Jacova C, Dekosky ST, Barberger-Gateau P, Cummings J, et al. Research criteria for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease: revising the NINCDS-ADRDA criteria. *Lancet Neurol*. 2007;6(8):734-46.
17. McKhann GM, Knopman DS, Chertkow H, Hyman BT, Jack CR, Jr., Kawas CH, et al. The diagnosis of dementia due to Alzheimer's disease: recommendations from the National Institute on Aging-Alzheimer's Association workgroups on diagnostic guidelines for Alzheimer's disease. *Alzheimers Dement*. 2011;7(3):263-9.
18. Hall S, Ohrfelt A, Constantinescu R, Andreasson U, Surova Y, Bostrom F, et al. Accuracy of a panel of 5 cerebrospinal fluid biomarkers in the differential diagnosis of patients with dementia and/or parkinsonian disorders. *Arch Neurol*. 2012;69(11):1445-52.

19. Wennstrom M, Surova Y, Hall S, Nilsson C, Minthon L, Bostrom F, et al. Low CSF levels of both alpha-synuclein and the alpha-synuclein cleaving enzyme neurosin in patients with synucleinopathy. *PLoS One*. 2013;8(1):e53250.
20. Korff A, Liu C, Gingham C, Shi M, Zhang J, Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging I. alpha-Synuclein in cerebrospinal fluid of Alzheimer's disease and mild cognitive impairment. *J Alzheimers Dis*. 2013;36(4):679-88.
21. Hong Z, Shi M, Chung KA, Quinn JF, Peskind ER, Galasko D, et al. DJ-1 and alpha-synuclein in human cerebrospinal fluid as biomarkers of Parkinson's disease. *Brain*. 2010;133(Pt 3):713-26.
22. Shi M, Tang L, Toledo JB, Gingham C, Wang H, Aro P, et al. Cerebrospinal fluid alpha-synuclein contributes to the differential diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. *Alzheimers Dement*. 2018;14(8):1052-62.
23. Wang H, Stewart T, Toledo JB, Gingham C, Tang L, Atik A, et al. A Longitudinal Study of Total and Phosphorylated alpha-Synuclein with Other Biomarkers in Cerebrospinal Fluid of Alzheimer's Disease and Mild Cognitive Impairment. *J Alzheimers Dis*. 2018;61(4):1541-53.
24. Mollenhauer B, Cullen V, Kahn I, Krastins B, Outeiro TF, Pepivani I, et al. Direct quantification of CSF alpha-synuclein by ELISA and first cross-sectional study in patients with neurodegeneration. *Exp Neurol*. 2008;213(2):315-25.
25. Chiasserini D, Biscetti L, Eusebi P, Salvadori N, Frattini G, Simoni S, et al. Differential role of CSF fatty acid binding protein 3, alpha-synuclein, and Alzheimer's disease core biomarkers in Lewy body disorders and Alzheimer's dementia. *Alzheimers Res Ther*. 2017;9(1):52.
26. Kasuga K, Tokutake T, Ishikawa A, Uchiyama T, Tokuda T, Onodera O, et al. Differential levels of alpha-synuclein, beta-amyloid42 and tau in CSF between patients with dementia with Lewy bodies and Alzheimer's disease. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry*. 2010;81(6):608-10.
27. Luo X, Hou L, Shi H, Zhong X, Zhang Y, Zheng D, et al. CSF levels of the neuronal injury biomarker visinin-like protein-1 in Alzheimer's disease and dementia with Lewy bodies. *J Neurochem*. 2013;127(5):681-90.
28. Tateno F, Sakakibara R, Kawai T, Kishi M, Murano T. Alpha-synuclein in the cerebrospinal fluid differentiates synucleinopathies (Parkinson Disease, dementia with Lewy bodies, multiple system atrophy) from Alzheimer disease. *Alzheimer Dis Assoc Disord*. 2012;26(3):213-6.
29. Hansson O, Hall S, Ohrfelt A, Zetterberg H, Blennow K, Minthon L, et al. Levels of cerebrospinal fluid alpha-synuclein oligomers are increased in Parkinson's disease with dementia and dementia with Lewy bodies compared to Alzheimer's disease. *Alzheimers Res Ther*. 2014;6(3):25.
30. Mollenhauer B, Locascio JJ, Schulz-Schaeffer W, Sixel-Doring F, Trenkwalder C, Schlossmacher MG. alpha-Synuclein and tau concentrations in cerebrospinal fluid of patients presenting with parkinsonism: a cohort study. *Lancet Neurol*. 2011;10(3):230-40.
31. Garcia-Ayllon MS, Monge-Argiles JA, Monge-Garcia V, Navarrete F, Cortes-Gomez MA, Sanchez-Paya J, et al. Measurement of CSF alpha-synuclein improves early differential diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's disease. *J Neurochem*. 2019;150(2):218-30.
32. Ohrfelt A, Grognet P, Andreasen N, Wallin A, Vanmechelen E, Blennow K, et al. Cerebrospinal fluid alpha-synuclein in neurodegenerative disorders-a marker of synapse loss? *Neurosci Lett*. 2009;450(3):332-5.
33. Kapaki E, Paraskevas GP, Emmanouilidou E, Vekrellis K. The diagnostic value of CSF alpha-synuclein in the differential diagnosis of dementia with Lewy bodies vs. normal subjects and patients with Alzheimer's disease. *PLoS One*. 2013;8(11):e81654.
34. Aerts MB, Esselink RA, Abdo WF, Bloem BR, Verbeek MM. CSF alpha-synuclein does not differentiate between parkinsonian disorders. *Neurobiol Aging*. 2012;33(2):430 e1-3.
35. Reesink FE, Lemstra AW, van Dijk KD, Berendse HW, van de Berg WD, Klein M, et al. CSF alpha-synuclein does not discriminate dementia with Lewy bodies from Alzheimer's disease. *J Alzheimers Dis*. 2010;22(1):87-95.
36. Schmitz M, Villar-Pique A, Llorens F, Gmitterova K, Hermann P, Varges D, et al. Cerebrospinal Fluid Total and Phosphorylated alpha-Synuclein in Patients with Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease and Synucleinopathy. *Mol Neurobiol*. 2019;56(5):3476-83.
37. Parnetti L, Chiasserini D, Eusebi P, Giannandrea D, Bellomo G, De Carlo C, et al. Performance of abeta1-40, abeta1-42, total tau, and phosphorylated tau as predictors of dementia in a cohort of patients with mild cognitive impairment. *J Alzheimers Dis*. 2012;29(1):229-38.

38. Llorens F, Schmitz M, Varges D, Kruse N, Gotzmann N, Gmitterova K, et al. Cerebrospinal alpha-synuclein in alpha-synuclein aggregation disorders: tau/alpha-synuclein ratio as potential biomarker for dementia with Lewy bodies. *J Neurol*. 2016;263(11):2271-7.
39. Slaets S, Le Bastard N, Martin JJ, Sleegers K, Van Broeckhoven C, De Deyn PP, et al. Cerebrospinal fluid Abeta1-40 improves differential dementia diagnosis in patients with intermediate P-tau181P levels. *J Alzheimers Dis*. 2013;36(4):759-67.
40. Bellani S, Sousa VL, Ronzitti G, Valtorta F, Meldolesi J, Chiergatti E. The regulation of synaptic function by alpha-synuclein. *Commun Integr Biol*. 2010;3(2):106-9.
41. Scott DA, Tabarean I, Tang Y, Cartier A, Masliah E, Roy S. A pathologic cascade leading to synaptic dysfunction in alpha-synuclein-induced neurodegeneration. *J Neurosci*. 2010;30(24):8083-95.
42. Larson ME, Sherman MA, Greimel S, Kuskowski M, Schneider JA, Bennett DA, et al. Soluble alpha-synuclein is a novel modulator of Alzheimer's disease pathophysiology. *J Neurosci*. 2012;32(30):10253-66.
43. Nemani VM, Lu W, Berge V, Nakamura K, Onoa B, Lee MK, et al. Increased expression of alpha-synuclein reduces neurotransmitter release by inhibiting synaptic vesicle recluster after endocytosis. *Neuron*. 2010;65(1):66-79.
44. Harper L, Fumagalli GG, Barkhof F, Scheltens P, O'Brien JT, Bouwman F, et al. MRI visual rating scales in the diagnosis of dementia: evaluation in 184 post-mortem confirmed cases. *Brain*. 2016;139(Pt 4):1211-25.
45. Blanc F, Colloby SJ, Philippi N, de Petigny X, Jung B, Demuynck C, et al. Cortical Thickness in Dementia with Lewy Bodies and Alzheimer's Disease: A Comparison of Prodromal and Dementia Stages. *PLoS One*. 2015;10(6):e0127396.
46. Ballard C, Ziabreva I, Perry R, Larsen JP, O'Brien J, McKeith I, et al. Differences in neuropathologic characteristics across the Lewy body dementia spectrum. *Neurology*. 2006;67(11):1931-4.
47. Irwin DJ, Lee VM, Trojanowski JQ. Parkinson's disease dementia: convergence of alpha-synuclein, tau and amyloid-beta pathologies. *Nat Rev Neurosci*. 2013;14(9):626-36.
48. Giasson BI, Lee VM, Trojanowski JQ. Interactions of amyloidogenic proteins. *Neuromolecular Med*. 2003;4(1-2):49-58.
49. Lee VM, Giasson BI, Trojanowski JQ. More than just two peas in a pod: common amyloidogenic properties of tau and alpha-synuclein in neurodegenerative diseases. *Trends Neurosci*. 2004;27(3):129-34.

## Tables

### **Table 1. Clinical and demographic characteristics of patient groups and their biomarker values.**

	DLB N=67		AD N=65		AD+DLB N=13		CS <sup>f</sup> N=21	Test statistic, P	Post <i>hoc</i> <sup>g</sup>	
	Pro-DLB N=51	DLB-d N=16	Pro-AD N=33	AD-d N=32	Pro- AD/DLB N=2	AD/DLB- d N=11				
Age, years <sup>a</sup>	66.2 (9.0)	75.4 (7.0)	71.1 (8.0)	70.8 (8.2)	77.5 (4.9)	77.3 (6.3)	68.5 (9.0)	H=19.88, P=.0013	Pro-DLB < DLB-d and AD/DLB- d p<0.05	
Gender (F/M)	27/24	12/4	15/18	20/12	1/1	6/5	11/10	$\chi^2=4.677$ , P=.4566		
MMSE score <sup>b</sup>	27.3 (2.4)	21.0 (4.0) (1ND)	26.4 (2.7)	21.4 (4.3)	26.5 (2.1)	20.7 (3.4)	26.9 (2.3)	H=80.34, P<.0001	Pro and CS > d	
Hallucinations <sup>c, i</sup>	68.6%	56.3%	12.5% (1ND)	32.3% (1ND)	50%	63.6%	33.3%	$\chi^2=29.99$ P<.0001		
Fluctuations <sup>c, j</sup>	83.3% (3ND)	75.0%	9.7% (2ND)	38.7% (1ND)	100%	90.9%	38.1%	$\chi^2=55.04$ , P<.0001		
Parkinsonism	Rigidity 0/1/2/3/4	24/29/1/0/0 (2ND)	3/7/5/1/0	27/5/1/0/0	23/8/1/0/0	0/2/0/0/0	2/9/0/0/0	11/8/0/2/0	H=37.99, P<.0001	pro-DLB > pro-AD and AD- d; DLB-d > pro-AD and AD- d; AD/DLB- d > pro- AD
	Akinesia 0/1/2/3/4	22/22/6/0/0 (2ND)	3/8/3/2/0	29/4/0/0/0	27/4/1/0/0	0/2/0/0/0	2/7/1/1/0	17/2/2/0/0	H=46.15, P<.0001	CS < DLB-d and AD/DLB- d; pro- DLB > pro-AD and AD- d; DLB-d and AD/DLB- d > pro- AD and AD-d
RBD <sup>c, k</sup>	Tremor at rest 0/1/2/3/4	32/15/1/0/0 (3ND)	11/5/0/0/0	30/3/0/0/0	30/1/0/0/0 (1ND)	1/1/0/0/0	9/2/0/0/0	19/2/0/0/0	H=16.87, P<.0048	Pro-DLB > AD-d
		43.8% (3ND)	43.8%	6.1%	19.4% (1ND)	0%	27.3%	33.3%	$\chi^2=16.99$ , P=.00045	
Hippocampi atrophy <sup>d</sup> 0/1/2/3/4	Left hippocampus	23/15/6/5/1 (1ND)	1/4/7/1/3	3/19/8/2/0 (1ND)	5/9/12/2/1 (3ND)	1/0/0/1/0	0/6/4/0/1	10/4/4/2/0 (1ND)	H=21.00, P=.0008	DLB-d > CS and pro-DLB
	Right Hippocampus	23/17/8/1/1 (1ND)	2/6/3/1/4	5/18/8/1/0 (1ND)	7/12/8/1/1 (3ND)	1/0/0/1/0	0/6/4/0/1	8/6/6/0/0 (1ND)	H=16.68, P=.0051	
FCSRT <sup>e</sup>		22% (1ND)	71.4% (2ND)	78.1% (1ND)	93.5% (1ND)	50%	100% (1ND)	30.0% (1ND)	$\chi^2=62.7$ , P<.0001	
CSF biomarkers <sup>h</sup>	t-Tau (ng/L)	271 [108]	306 [108]	630 [339]	628 [231]	582 [486]	627 [307]	265 [93]	H=88.14 P<.0001	CS, pro- DLB, DLB-d < pro-AD, AD-d, AD+DLB- d
	P-Tau (ng/L)	43 [15]	47 [14]	91 [33]	81 [22]	76 [58]	92 [44]	43 [17]	H=90.34 P<.0001	CS, pro- DLB, DLB-d <

<b>Aβ42 (ng/L)</b>	911 [292]	742 [268]	642 [299]	518 [571]	688 [194]	437 [181]	1002 [256]	H=59.30 P<.0001	pro-AD, AD-d, AD+DLB-d CS, pro-DLB > pro-AD, AD-d, AD+DLB-d
<b>t-α-synuclein</b>	118 [49]	112 [62]	197 [77]	183 [114]	145 [29]	187 [86]	141 [57]	H=35.55 P<.0001	Pro-DLB < pro-AD and AD-d; DLB-d < pro-AD
<hr/>									
<b>Aβ40 assays</b>	<b>DLB</b> N=34		<b>AD</b> N=25		<b>AD+DLB</b> N=6				
	<b>Pro-DLB</b> N=28	<b>DLB-d</b> N=6	<b>Pro-AD</b> N=16	<b>AD-d</b> N=9	<b>Pro-AD/DLB</b> N=1	<b>AD/DLB-d</b> N=5	<b>CS<sup>f</sup></b> N=11		
<b>Aβ40 (ng/L)</b>	9081 [2320]	8303 [2681]	13892 [6575]	10293 [3891]	22700	12423 [4468]	11308 [4825]	H=10.08 P=0.0731	
<b>Aβ42/Aβ40</b>	0.107 [0.035]	0.107 [0.048]	0.052 [0.021]	0.051 [0.022]	0.036	0.039 [0.005]	0.102 [0.029]	H=42.13 P<.0001	CS and pro-DLB > pro-AD, AD-d, AD+DLB-d; DLB-d > AD+DLB-d

<sup>a</sup> Age at time of lumbar puncture and cognitive evaluation. Mean (standard deviation). <sup>b</sup> Mean (standard deviation). <sup>c</sup> Percentage. <sup>d</sup> according to Scheltens et al., JNNP, 1992. <sup>e</sup> percentage of deficient patients

<sup>f</sup> The group included patients suffering from depression (n=1); neurosis (n=1); vascular dementia and depression (n=1), sleep apnea syndrome and primary age-related tauopathy (PART) (n=1), vascular MCI and sleep apnea syndrome (n=1), traumatic brain injury and left parietal meningeal hemorrhage (n=1), corticobasal degeneration (CBD) (n=1); Gougerot-Sjögren's syndrome (n=1); fronto-insular low-grade glioma (n=1); cognitive impairment due to diabetes (n=1); temporo-insular cavernoma (n=1); vascular dementia and frontotemporal dementia (FTD) (n=1); temporal epilepsy (n=2); progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP) (n=3); vascular dementia (n=1); primary age-related tauopathy (PART) (n=2); stroke (n=1).

<sup>g</sup> Kruskal-Wallis post-hoc test (H)

CDR=clinical dementia rating; MMSE=Mini-Mental Status Examination; N=number; RBD= rapid eye movement sleep behavior disorder; FCSRT=Free and Cued Selective Reminding Test

<sup>h</sup> CSF biomarkers at time of cognitive evaluation. Mean [standard deviation].

<sup>i</sup> The Hallucinations Parkinson's disease-associated psychotic symptoms questionnaire was used to evaluate the presence of hallucinations (47)

<sup>j</sup> Fluctuations were assessed with the Mayo Clinic Fluctuations Scale (48)

<sup>k</sup> RBD was evaluated using a questionnaire based on the article by (49)

**Table 2**  
**ROC analysis of CSF parameters for DLB versus AD**

CSF variables	Number of patients*	Youden index <sup>¶</sup>	Associated criterion <sup>§</sup>	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)	AUC (95% CI)
<b>DLB-(pro+d) vs AD-(pro+d)</b>						
t- $\alpha$ -synuclein		0.484	> 139 ng/L	72.3	76.1	0.78 (0.70 to 0.85)
t-Tau	DLB n = 67 AD n = 65	0.713	> 371 ng/L	89.2	82.1	0.92 (0.86 to 0.96)
phospho-Tau <sub>181</sub>		0.773	> 58 ng/L	90.8	86.6	0.93 (0.87 to 0.97)
A $\beta$ 42		0.490	$\leq$ 838 ng/L	90.8	58.2	0.77 (0.69 to 0.84)
t-Tau_phospho-Tau_A $\beta$ 42 <sup>¥</sup>		0.787	>0.4714	87.7	91.0	0.95 (0.89 to 0.98)
t-Tau_phospho-Tau_A $\beta$ 42_t- $\alpha$ -syn <sup>¥</sup>		0.802	>0.516	86.2	94.0	0.95 (0.90 to 0.98)
<hr/>						
A $\beta$ 40	DLB n = 34 AD n = 25	0.474	> 9563	68.0	79.4	0.70 (0.57 to 0.81)
A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40		0.731	$\leq$ 0.0555	76.0	97.1	0.93 (0.83 to 0.98)
t-Tau_phospho-Tau_A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40 <sup>¥</sup>		0.840	> 0.5368	84.0	100	0.95 (0.86 to 0.99)
t-Tau_phospho-Tau_A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40_t- $\alpha$ -syn <sup>¥</sup>		0.840	> 0.5442	84.0	100	0.95 (0.86 to 0.99)
<hr/>						
<b>Pro-DLB vs Pro-AD</b>						
t- $\alpha$ -synuclein		0.583	> 139 ng/L	81.8	76.5	0.83 (0.73 to 0.90)
t-Tau	DLB n = 51 AD n = 33	0.701	> 371 ng/L	81.8	88.2	0.89 (0.81 to 0.95)
phospho-Tau <sub>181</sub>		0.800	> 60 ng/L	87.9	92.2	0.92 (0.84 to 0.97)
A $\beta$ 42		0.476	$\leq$ 838 ng/L	84.9	62.8	0.75 (0.64 to 0.84)
t-Tau_phospho-Tau_A $\beta$ 42 <sup>¥</sup>		0.779	> 0.498	81.8	96.1	0.93 (0.86 to 0.98)
t-Tau_phospho-Tau_A $\beta$ 42_t- $\alpha$ -syn <sup>¥</sup>		0.770	> 0.480	84.9	92.2	0.95 (0.88 to 0.98)
<hr/>						
A $\beta$ 40		0.536	> 9563	75.0	78.6	0.75 (0.60 to 0.87)
A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40		0.777	$\leq$ 0.0529	81.3	96.4	0.94 (0.82 to 0.99)
t-Tau_phospho-Tau_A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40 <sup>¥</sup>	DLB n = 28 AD n = 16	0.875	> 0.5111	87.5	100	0.95 (0.84 to 0.99)
t-Tau_phospho-Tau_A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40_t- $\alpha$ -syn <sup>¥</sup>		0.875	> 0.5148	87.5	100	0.95 (0.83 to 0.99)
<hr/>						
<b>DLB-d vs AD-d</b>						
t- $\alpha$ -synuclein		0.469	> 92.275 ng/L	90.6	56.3	0.75 (0.60 to 0.86)
t-Tau	DLB n = 16 AD n = 32	0.750	> 441 ng/L	81.3	93.8	0.94 (0.83 to 0.99)
phospho-Tau <sub>181</sub>		0.750	> 56 ng/L	93.8	81.3	0.93 (0.82 to 0.99)
A $\beta$ 42		0.406	$\leq$ 781 ng/L	96.9	43.8	0.73 (0.58 to 0.85)
t-Tau_phospho-Tau_A $\beta$ 42 <sup>¥</sup>		0.813	> 0.6032	81.3	100	0.96 (0.86 to 1.00)
t-Tau_phospho-Tau_A $\beta$ 42_t- $\alpha$ -syn <sup>¥</sup>		0.781	> 0.4877	96.9	81.3	0.96 (0.86 to 1.00)
<hr/>						
A $\beta$ 40	DLB n = 6 AD n = 9	0.389	> 9183	55.6	83.3	0.65 (0.37 to 0.87)
A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40		0.667	$\leq$ 0.056	66.7	100	0.91 (0.65 to 0.99)
t-Tau_phospho-Tau_A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40 <sup>¥</sup>		0.778	> 0.5201	77.8	100	0.93 (0.67 to 1.00)
t-Tau_phospho-Tau_A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40_t- $\alpha$ -syn <sup>¥</sup>		0.889	> 0.5354	88.9	100	0.96 (0.72 to 1.00)

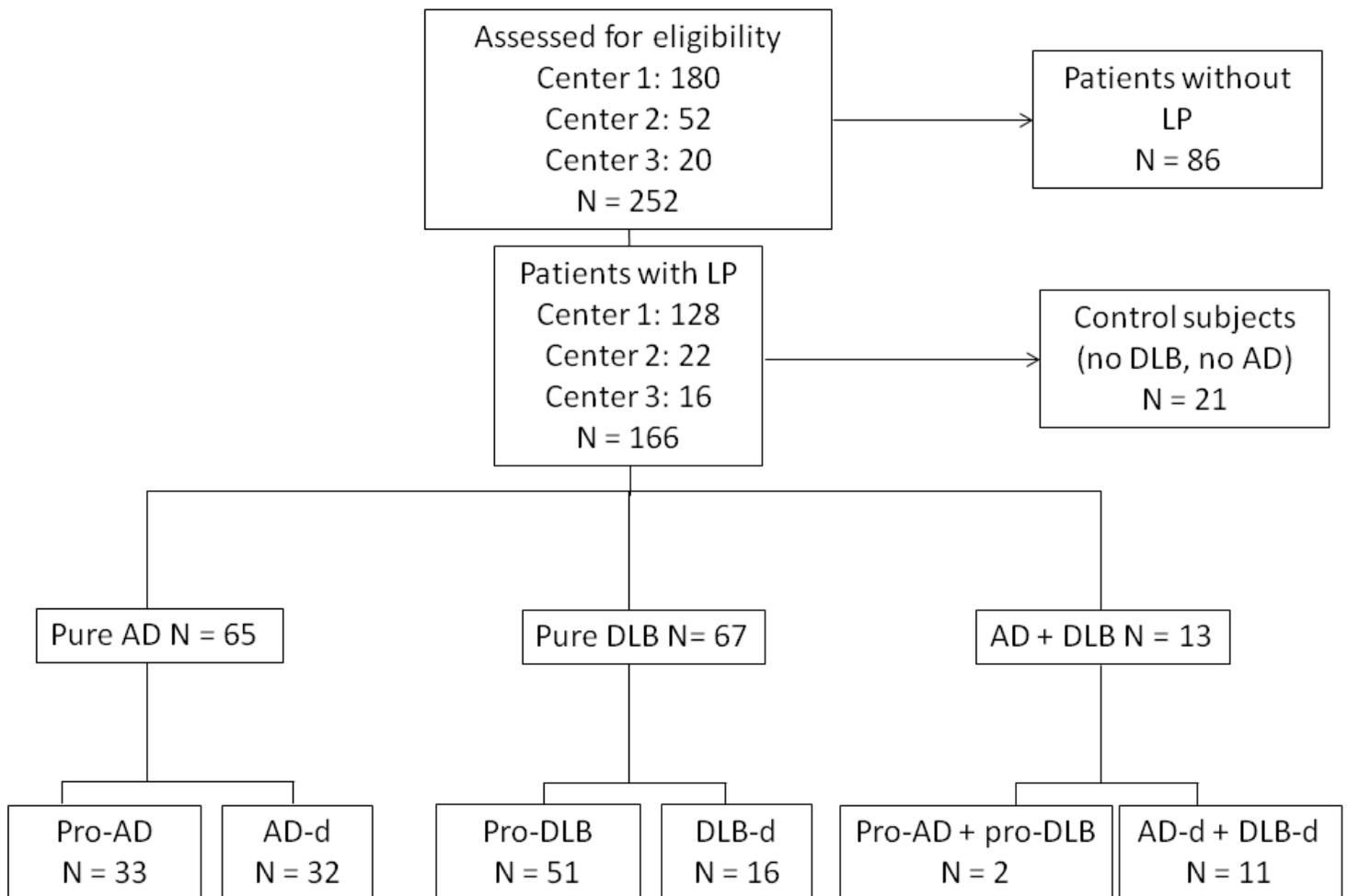
\* Due to missing CSF, some patients could not have an A $\beta$ 40 assay.

<sup>¶</sup>Youden index: sensitivity + specificity - 1

§Cut-off associated with the Youden index

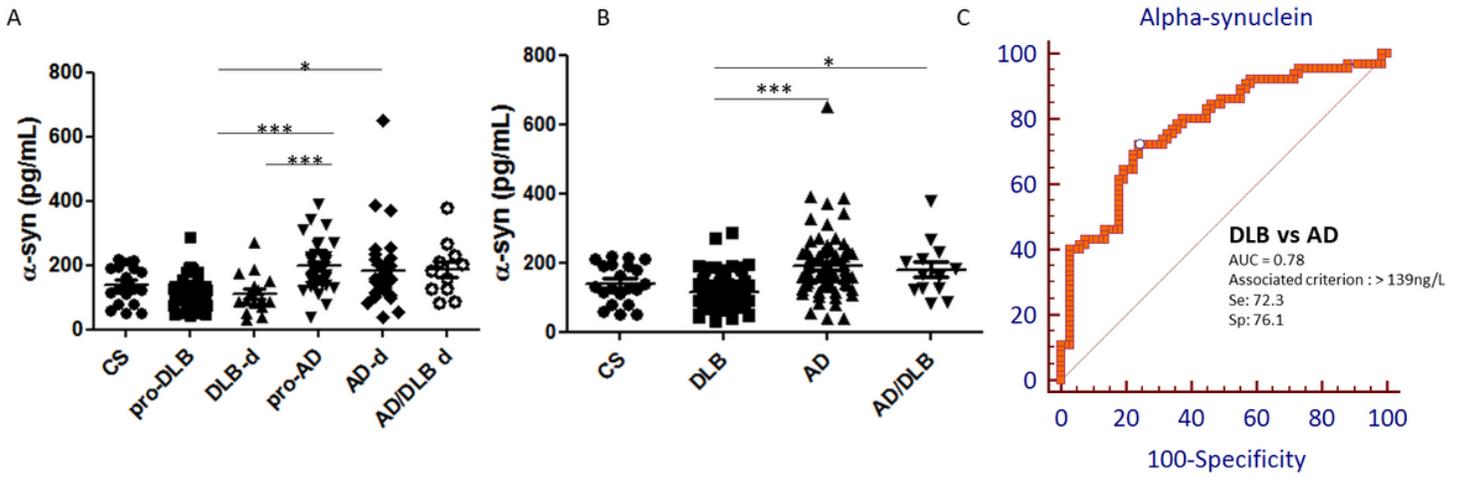
¥ Consideration of three or four parameters with a multiple regression

## Figures



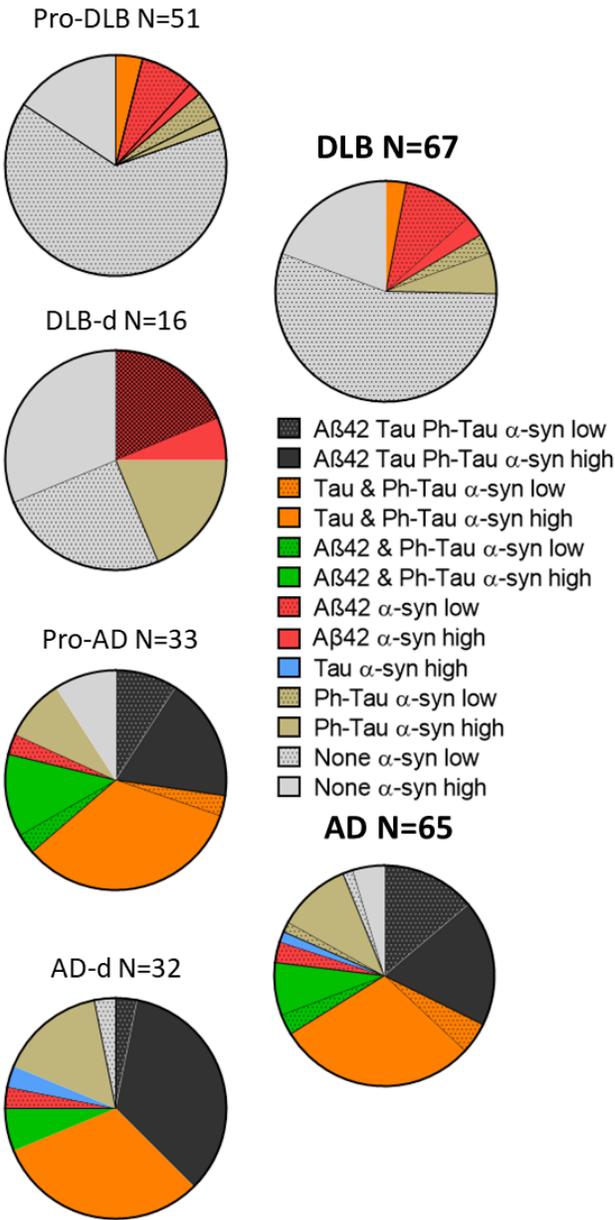
**Figure 1**

Flowchart of patient selection from AlphaLewyMA study. Center 1: CHU de Haute-pierre; Center 2: Hôpital de la Robertsau; Center 3: Hôpitaux Civils de Colmar; AD, Alzheimer's disease; DLB, dementia with Lewy bodies; Pro-AD, prodromal-AD; Pro-DLB, prodromal-DLB; AD-d, AD-demented; DLB-d, DLB-demented



**Figure 2**

Total alpha-synuclein assay discriminates between AD and DLB (A) and (B) Scatterplots of CSF alpha-synuclein. (A) CSF concentrations of total alpha-synuclein in each patient group (the number of patients per group was: CS n = 21, pro-DLB n = 51, DLB-d n = 16, pro-AD n = 33, AD-d n = 32, AD/DLB-d n = 11) and (B) CSF concentration of alpha-synuclein in CS, DLB (pro-DLB + DLB-d), AD (pro-AD + AD-d) and in AD/DLB (mixed pathologies: pro-AD/DLB + AD/DLB-d). \*\*\*p < 0.001; \*p < 0.05. p values were calculated using Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's multiple comparison test. (C) Alpha-synuclein ROC curve between DLB and AD groups. Prodromal and demented patients were pooled in each group. Number of patients per group: DLB n = 67, AD n = 65. Se: sensitivity; Sp: specificity



**Figure 3**

Distribution of the combination of Alzheimer's biomarkers with alpha-synuclein levels for each group. The diagrams show the proportion of patients with pathological Alzheimer's biomarkers, either 3 pathological biomarkers (indicated by Aβ42, Tau and Ph-Tau), or 2 pathological biomarkers (indicated by either Aβ42 and Tau, or Aβ42 and Ph-Tau, or Tau and Ph-Tau), or 1 pathological biomarker (Aβ42, Tau, Ph-Tau), or no pathological biomarkers, each with alpha-synuclein level (α-syn low or high using the associated criterion 139 ng/L). Note that the pathological "Aβ42" groups include pathological Aβ42 and/or pathological Aβ42/Aβ40 ratios.