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words

## Dementia with Lewy bodies

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Every seven seconds there is a new case of dementia worldwide. Pathological studies suggest that 10–15% of cases are dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB), a diagnosis unrecognised 15 years ago. The functional impairments and costs of managing this illness are twice those of Alzheimer's disease and one in four carers rates quality of life in DLB as 'worse than death'. Correct management brings significant benefits, but DLB is only part of a spectrum of Lewy body disorders including Parkinson's disease and autonomic failure, which present to psychiatrists, neurologists, geriatricians and general practitioners. To beat it we must talk more with colleagues and cut across specialty boundaries.

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