

Capgras Syndrome and Its Relationship to Neurodegenerative Disease

Keith A. Josephs, M.D
Archives of Neurology 2007

Defining Capgras Delusion

- Belief that a loved one or pet is an imposter
- Not an inability to perceive faces or features
- Damage to emotional pathway that allows one to link feelings to an individual
- Extreme cases with one's own reflection

Study Design

- Determine differences in patients:

- With ND disease
- Without ND disease
- Between ND diseases

Mayo Clinic Medical Records Linkage System

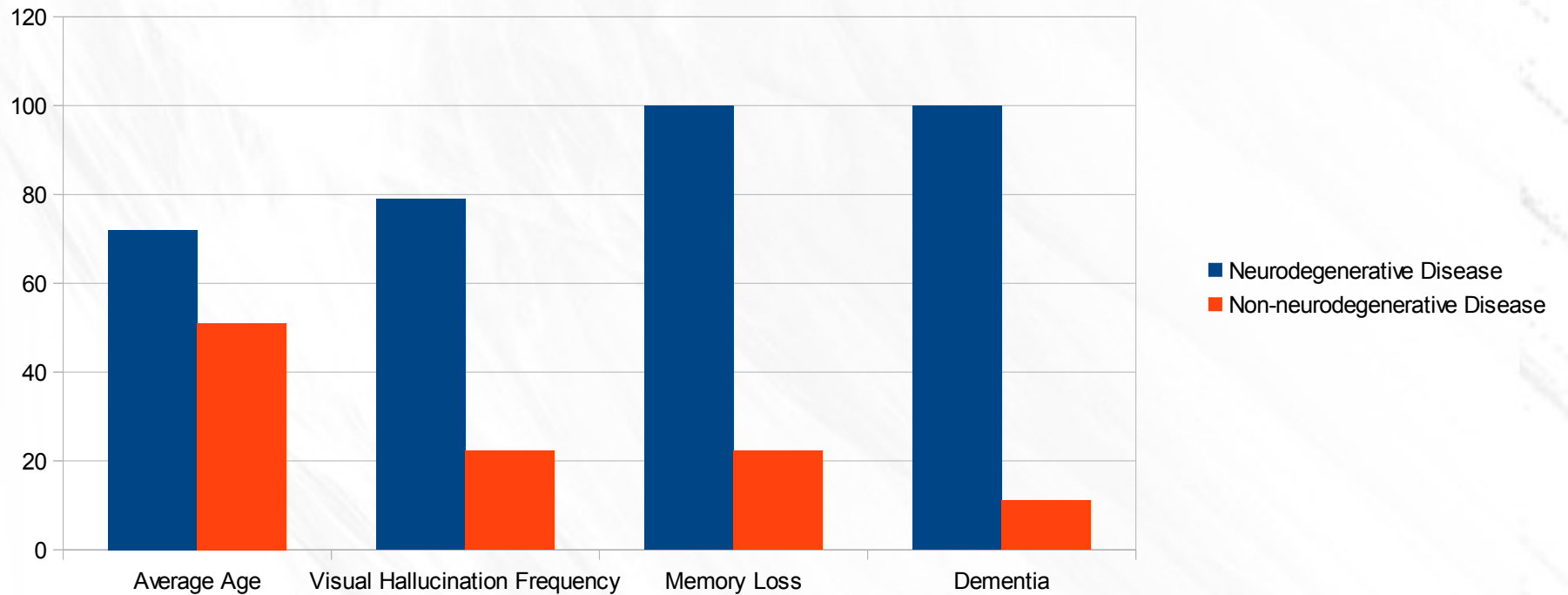
- January 1, 1996 – December 31, 2006
 - “Capgras” or “Misidentification” (165)
 - Personal review i.e exclusion for prosopagnosia (56)
 - Tested Subjects (47)

Ending Groups

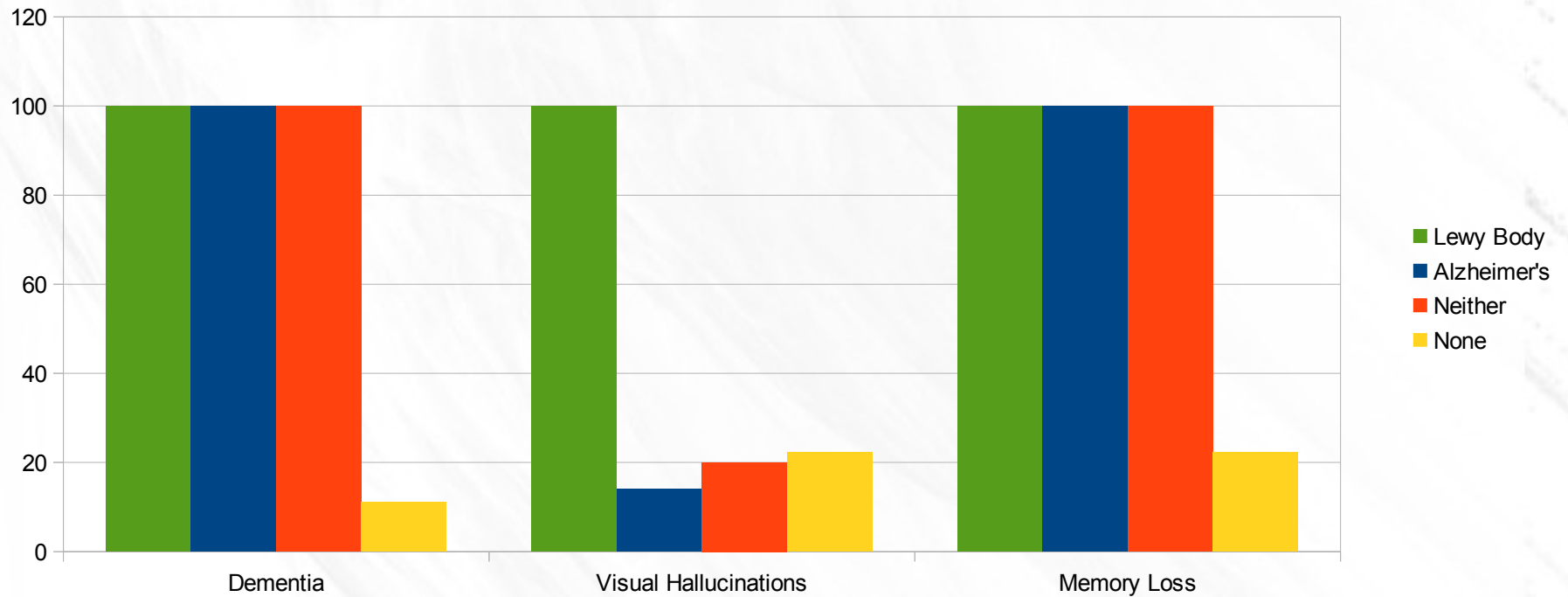
4 groups (47) with:

- Lewy body disease (26)
- Alzheimer's disease (7)
- any other neurodegenerative disease (5)
- no neurodegenerative disease (9)

Group Statistics



Subgroup Statistics



Conclusions

- Onset of Capgras delusion at later age w/ ND disease
- Memory loss and dementia associated with ND disease
- Visual hallucinations associated with Lewy body disease