Capgras Syndrome and Its Relationship to Neurodegenerative Disease

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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

- Average Age
- Visual Hallucination Frequency
- Memory Loss
- Dementia

[Bar chart showing comparison between neurodegenerative disease and non-neurodegenerative disease for each category]
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