

DEMENTIA

DDX:

Alzheimers

Dementia w/ Lewy Bodies

Frontotemporal Dementia – (“Picks” is one type)

Normal aging of brain begins at age 60 and is seen as decreased metabolism in the medial frontal lobes and also anterior temporal lobes.

Remember that the typical periventricular chronic small vessel ischemic changes on MRI can be seen on PET as decreased metabolism in the cortex overlying the abnormal white matter signal.

Alzheimers Dementia findings:

Decreased parietal and/or temporal metabolism, eventually frontal too.

IMPORTANT: spares cerebellum, basal ganglia, primary sensorimotor cortex, cingulate gyrus (parafalcine regions)

Question 1: what is warranty period of negative PET? Unknown

Question 2: if mildly abnormal – begin medical tx – no literature to support f/u. Moreover, doubtful that insurance will cover a f/u.

Dementia w/Lewy Bodies (DLB) findings:

Decreased parietal and/or temporal metabolism.

ALSO expect visual cortex (occipital lobe) decrease.

Compare to thalamus.

If occipital lobe decrease relative to thalamus ->DLB.

If occipital lobe is equal to thalamus metab ->Alzheimers likely.

Pearl: tremor and rigidity often present. Hallucinations.

Looks like Parkinsons but autopsy shows inclusion body called Lewy body in cortex.

Frontotemporal Dementia findings:

Decreased caudate metabolism. Also frontal and anterior temp. decrease.

Pearl: Patient’s can’t sit still with this dementia – expect movement.

DDX for Frontal decrease: aging, ischemia, depression, EtOH, schizophrenia, trauma, substance abuse, and FTD.