

Visual hallucinations in dementia with Lewy bodies and primary psychosis spectrum

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Objectives

Visual hallucinations (VH) most commonly occur in dementia with Lewy body (DLB). Very little is known about the frequency and phenomenology of VH in psychiatric disorders manifesting with psychosis, where auditory hallucinations are more frequent. The phenomenology of VH is likely to offer crucial information about the brain regions within the visual system generating them. The aim of the study is to assess differences of VH phenomenology in DLB and psychiatric disorders with psychosis.

| Methods | Auditory Hallucinations | Visual Hallucinations |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| One hundred forty-nine patients were studied: 63 patients with DLB diagnosed according to | 100% | 100% |
| consensus criteria and 86 patients with psychosis due to different | 90% — — — — — | 90% — — — — — |
| psychiatric disorders; bipolar disorder and affective disorder according to the DSM-5. The frequency | | |

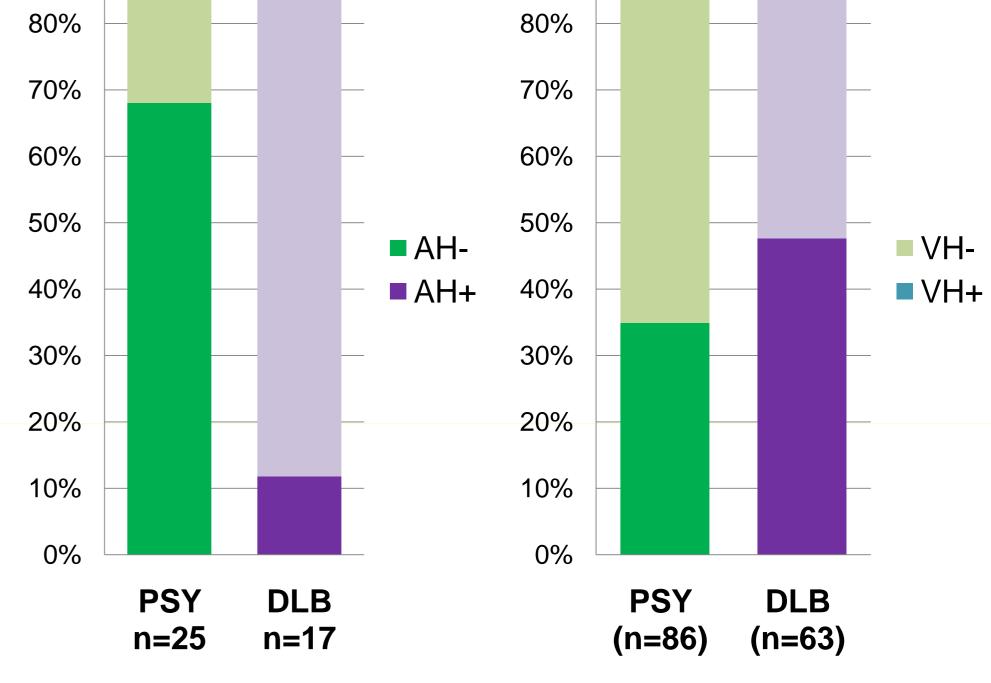
psychiatric disorders, bipolar disorder and anective disorder according to the DSIN-S. The nequency and phenomenology of VH were investigated using an ad-hoc questionnaire created by merging dedicated instruments for VH in DLB and psychiatric disorders.

Results

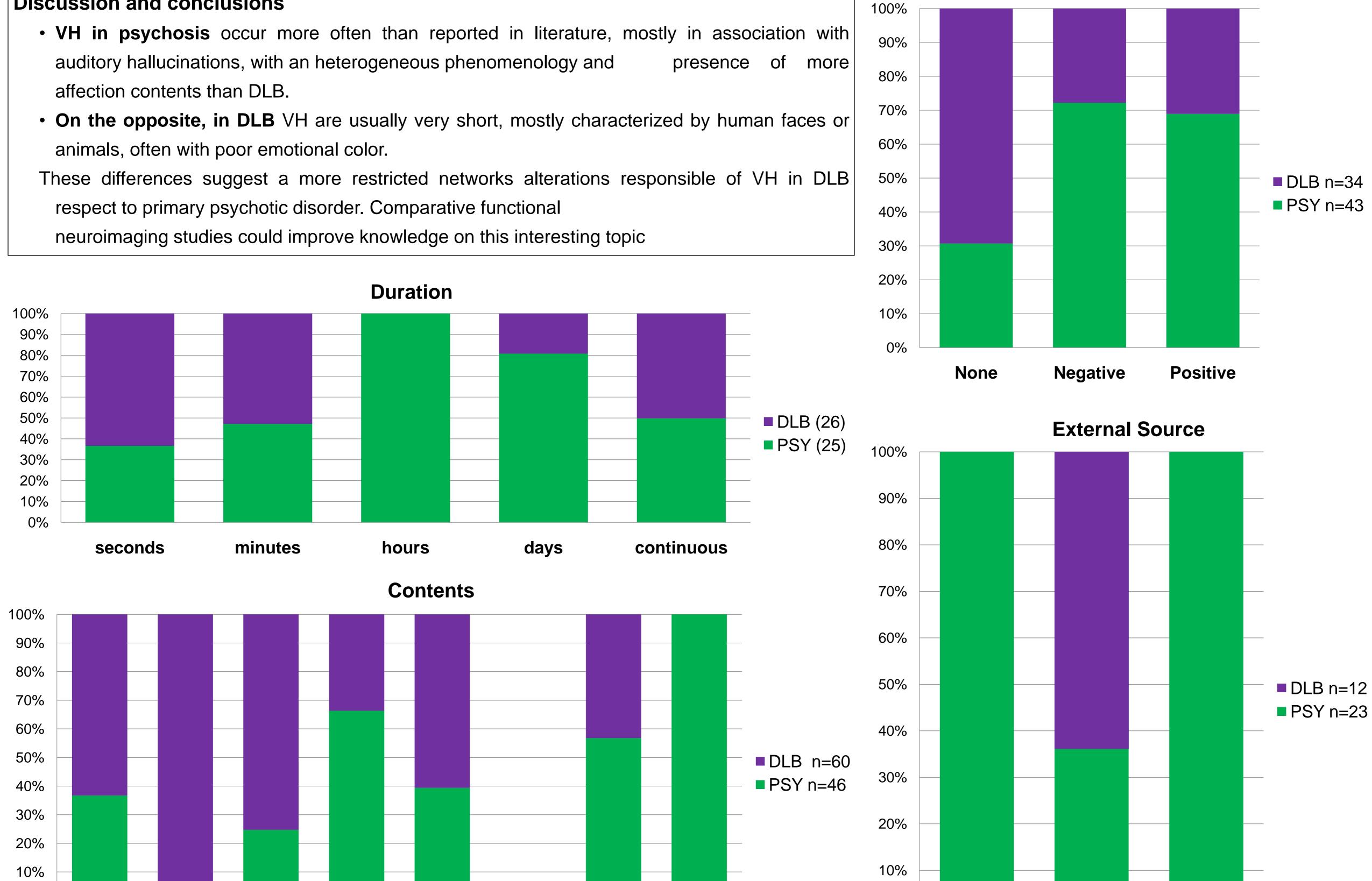
48% (30/63) of DLB and 31% (25/81) of psychotic patients experienced VH not induced by drugs or abuse substances. The VH phenomenology was different in DLB and primary psychosis for the following aspects: duration (DLB: seconds/minutes, Psychosis: heterogeneous duration; p=0.03), contents (DLB: 70% humans/animals, Psychosis: different types, p=0.001), abnormal colors (DLB: 50%, Psychosis: 16%, p=0.03), occurrence of auditory hallucinations (DLB 12%, Psychosis,68%, p<0.001), related emotions (DLB: 36%, Psychosis: 87%, mainly negative, p<0.001), external source (DLB 0%, Psychosis: 30%, p=0.02).

Discussion and conclusions

- auditory hallucinations, with an heterogeneous phenomenology and affection contents than DLB.
- respect to primary psychotic disorder. Comparative functional



Related Emotions





objects lilliputians others animals chuldreb forms insects faces



