Study: Identifying Lewy Body Disease Before Symptoms

A reduced sense of smell and the presence in cerebrospinal fluid of α-synuclein, a protein that can aggregate to form the characteristic pathology of Lewy body disease, a type of dementia, was tied to later diagnosis with the condition, according to research published in Nature Medicine involving 1182 participants without cognitive or neurological impairment.

Drugs aimed at slowing Lewy body disease progression are in development and are most likely to be effective if given in the early stages of the condition. These findings could help identify eligible participants for clinical trials testing those early-intervention drugs, study author Oskar Hansson, MD, PhD, of Lund University in Sweden, said in a statement. — Emily Harris

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Note: Source references are available through embedded hyperlinks in the article text online.