



A NEW HOPE FOR DEMENTIA TREATMENT

Recent clinical trial results offer a promising path forward for patients suffering from dementia with Lewy bodies.

THERE IS A DESPERATE NEED FOR NEW treatments for Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ADRD), including Lewy body dementia (LBD) and Parkinson’s disease dementia. Of the 7 million individuals above age 65 living with ADRD in the U.S., upward of one in five have dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB), yet no treatments have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or the European Medicines Agency, according to the LBD Association.

CervoMed is working to change this. The Boston-based clinical-stage biotechnology company previously reported the results of AscenD-LB, its first clinical trial with an oral drug called neflamapimod, which showed potential as a treatment for DLB. CervoMed now has a second clinical trial of neflamapimod in patients with DLB, RewinD-LB, that is ongoing.

“In DLB, the groundwork done in Alzheimer’s is being applied in real time, so the advances in disease understanding and clinical trial design in the past few years have been dramatic,” says CervoMed CEO John Alam. “This progress provides us real hope, and we believe there is a clear path toward success in DLB treatment, particularly in the early stages of the disease.”

Breakthroughs in the medical community’s insight into dementia made it clear to CervoMed leaders that developing a drug that targeted DLB specifically may have the most impact and the highest likelihood of success as a treatment. That’s because, compared to other forms of dementia, particularly Alzheimer’s, DLB patients typically have significantly less irreversible neuronal loss in the hippocampus, as well as a broader window between

when patients are diagnosed and when they pass what is often referred to as the “tipping point” for therapies to work.

What’s more, patients with DLB have lower functional capacity, greater caregiver burden, and report lower quality of life than patients with Alzheimer’s. In 2024, the long-term care costs for those living with ADRD is set to reach \$360 billion, according to the Alzheimer’s Association. At the patient- and science-driven company, CervoMed leaders felt compelled to develop a therapy that could intervene at an early stage, improving the lives of patients and their caregivers while also limiting the costs and effects of dementias on the health care system.

Thus far, results are highly promising. The clinical data indicates that neflamapimod has the capacity to not just slow decline but to also partially restore both cognitive and motor function in patients with DLB.

“Five years ago, it was arguably unimaginable that there would be a major advance in the treatment of this serious disease,” says Alam. “And now, with our larger confirmatory study, which started in August 2023 and recently completed enrollment, we may demonstrate by the end of the year what we believe the AscenD-LB results suggested—that neflamapimod has the potential to be a transformative treatment for patients with DLB.” ■