

# A link between delirium and dementia with Lewy bodies?

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## Background

- Delirium has been hypothesized, in some cases, to be a prodromal stage of dementia with Lewy Bodies (DLB) (1).
- Not much is known about the possible link between delirium and DLB (2), even though a potential overlap in symptoms between delirium and DLB is seen, including fluctuations, hallucinations and sleep disturbances as key features.

## Methods

- We are including hospitalized older adults  $\geq 65$  years of age and will compare findings in non-demented patients with and without delirium.
- CSF analysis: examine alphasynucleinopathy in both groups.
- Exclusion criteria: multitrauma patients, patients or next of kin not able to speak Norwegian, patients presenting with life threatening conditions, clinically relevant recent stroke, known serious psychiatric disease with active psychosis or suicidality.

## Objective

- To examine if development of DLB is more common in older adults with a history of hospital delirium, compared with older adults without delirium.

This study is part of the DERAİL project (2) that studies delirium and its interrelationship with dementia with Lewy bodies.

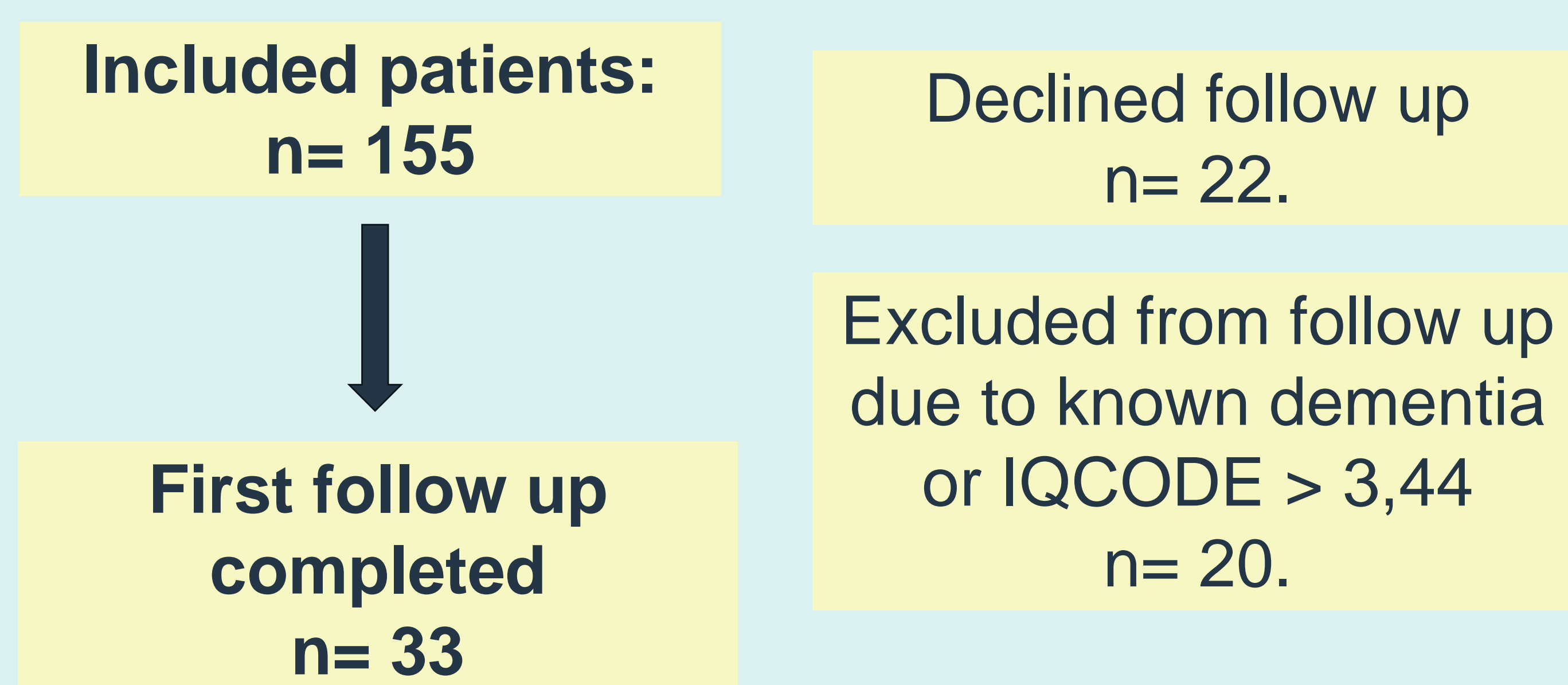
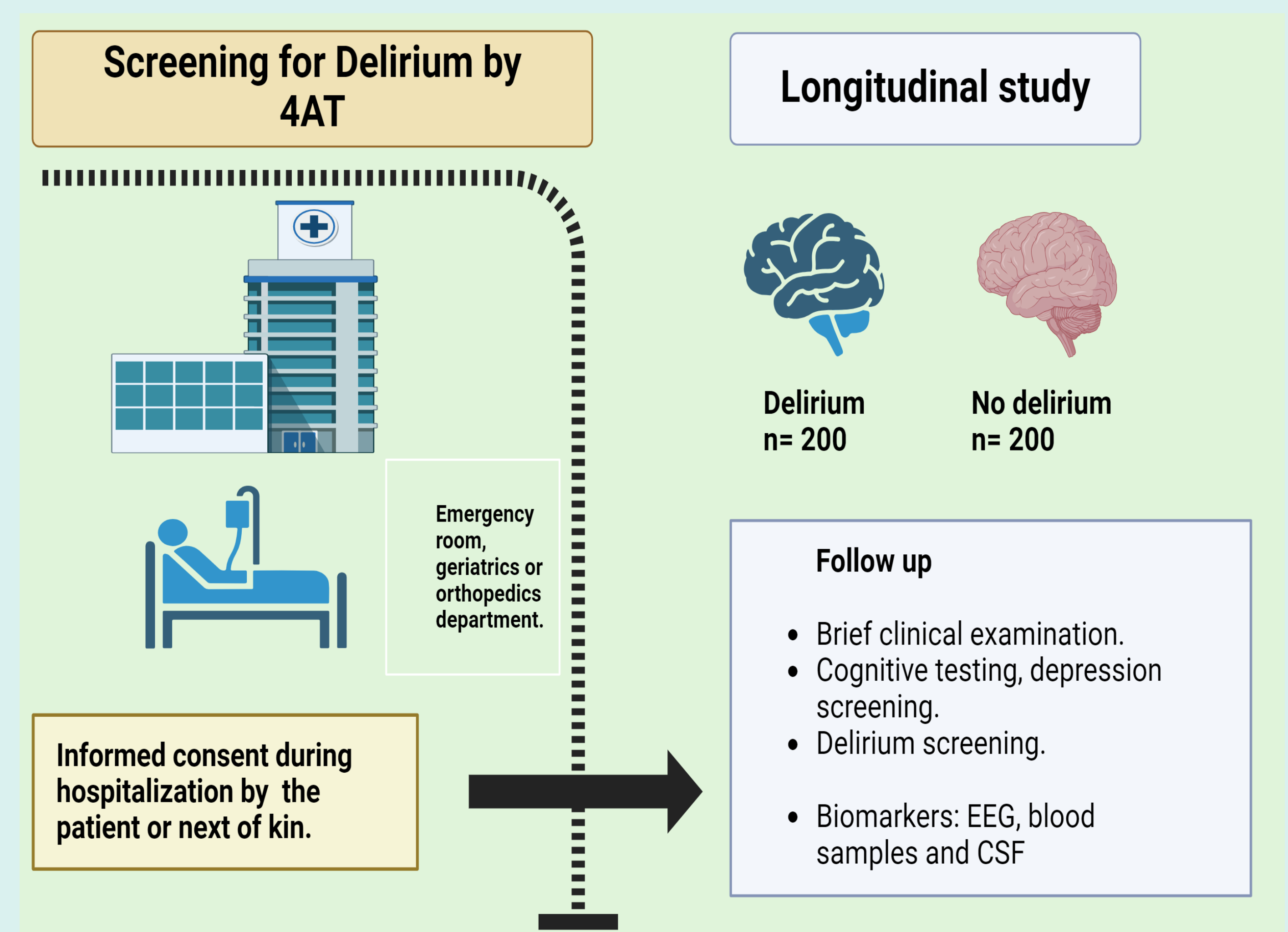


Figure 1: Flow chart of inclusion

Figure 2: Overview of the study

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## Future plans

- Ongoing inclusion of patients.
- First follow up within 6 months after hospital discharge, then annually for 3 years.

## References:

1. Gore, R.L., E.R. Vardy, and J.T. O'Brien, Delirium and dementia with Lewy bodies: distinct diagnoses or part of the same spectrum? *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry*, 2015. 86(1): p. 50-9.
2. Petersen Hella, M.N., et al., What we know about the possible link between delirium and dementia with Lewy bodies, and why we need to learn more. *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica*, 2023. 147(5): p. 401-402.