INTRODUCTION

• Patients with dementia commonly experience dementia-related psychosis, which is associated with increased care burden, accelerated cognitive decline, and worse patient outcomes relative to dementia without psychosis.1

• Healthcare providers, in particular, are associated with a 1.6- to 1.5-times higher risk of institutionalization and death, respectively.4

• Affected individuals are faced with limited treatment options for dementia-related psychosis. No therapies are currently approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treating dementia-related psychosis, and patients are often treated on a short-term basis with existing antipsychotic medications with known risks and uncertain benefit.6

• Second-generation atypical antipsychotics are commonly utilized off-label for the treatment of dementia-related psychosis and are associated with a number of side effects, such as extrapyramidal symptoms, orthostatic hypotension, hallucinogenic abnormalities, and metabolic, gastrointestinal, thrombo-embolic, and sedative effects. These agents are also associated with an increased risk for falls (and associated fractures), infection, aspiration pneumonia, and other serious complications in this vulnerable patient population.11 The majority of these risks are serious and are communicated to prescribers and patients as Warning and/or benzodiazepines.6

OBJECTIVE

• To collect data on current treatments and unmet treatment needs associated with dementia-related psychosis from a patient and care partner perspective.

METHODS

Qualitative Interviews

• The qualitative component consisted of a single-vista study involving in-depth, approximately 60-minute interviews with eligible English-speaking participants in the United States.

• In-depth interviews were conducted with patients or care partners of patients who have a clinical diagnosis of dementia with psychiatric symptoms (for at least 2 months), recruited through physician referrals.

• The semistructured interview was conducted via telephone and participants were asked to describe any current treatments being taken for hallucinations or delusions and to discuss their perspective related to expectations for potential new treatments.

Quantitative Surveys

• The quantitative online survey was completed by persons with self-reported dementia-related psychosis or their care partners; they were recruited through direct outreach by the advocacy groups UsAgainstAlzheimer’s and the Lewy Body Dementia Association.