

Dementia: Update on Diagnosis and Management

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ABSTRACT

Demographic changes and the rapid aging of the population worldwide will lead to an increase in the prevalence of older people with dementia (≥ 65 years), many of whom suffer from multimorbidity.

Dementia is a syndrome characterized by progressive, irreversible decline in cognitive functions such as memory, learning, orientation, executive function, language, and perceptual-motor skills, that significantly interferes with activities of daily living. The clinical picture is, however, more complex and frequently involves behavioral and psychological changes.

Alzheimer disease (AD) is the most common type of dementia and possibly contributes to 60-80% of all cases, followed by vascular dementia (VaD, 10-15%), frontotemporal dementia (about 5-10%) and dementia with Lewy bodies ($< 5\%$). However, post mortem studies have shown that many people with dementia have mixed AD and VaD pathologies, suggesting that mixed type dementia (AD/VaD) is often underdiagnosed. According to the recent report of Alzheimer's Disease International (World Alzheimer Report 2015), the number of people suffering from dementia worldwide is estimated at 47 million people. This number is expected to more than triple by 2050, causing a major public health problem with an immense impact on individual patients, their families, health care systems, and economies. During the presentation, we will discuss the update on diagnosis and management of dementia.