

DIFFERENCES IN DIAGNOSIS, FOLLOW-UP AND TREATMENT OF PATIENTS WITH DEMENTIA IN THE PERIPHERY COMPARED TO THE CENTRAL AREA OF ISRAEL

D. Merims¹, D. Golan Shemesh², H. Nahari¹, O. Arharov², G. Ben Ari, J. Ben Israel¹

¹*Dementia Special Care Unit, Shoham Geriatric Medical Center, Israel*

²*Dementia Special Care Unit, Beit Hashemesh Nursing Home, Israel*

Doronm@shoham.health.gov.il

Objective: to compare data regarding diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of patients with dementia in the center to the peripheral areas of Israel.

Methods: Data was collected from medical records of 164 patients with advanced dementia, all residents of Dementia Special Care Units; 97 patients from a central nursing home and 67 patients from the periphery. The data collected related to the period prior to hospitalization and included: demographic data, imaging tests, follow-up in a memory clinic and drug treatment prior to admission. Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE) on admission was also recorded.

Results: Patients in the periphery were hospitalized while having better cognitive function as demonstrated by the MMSE ($p < 0.05$). More patients in the center versus periphery, were aided by an in-house worker prior to admission ($p < 0.001$). More patients with dementia in the center were followed in a memory clinic ($p < 0.001$) and underwent brain imaging ($p < 0.01$) compared to patients with dementia living in the periphery. Although not significant, patients from the center area were more commonly treated with atypical neuroleptics for behavioral problems ($p = 0.05$)

Conclusions: There are differences in the diagnosis, follow-up and drug treatment, among patients with dementia in the center versus the periphery. Patients in the periphery are hospitalized while their cognitive abilities are relatively better than the cognitive abilities of patients in central areas.