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Younger onset dementia: a recent literature review

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Abstract

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Keywords

literature, review, recent, younger, dementia, onset

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Oral Abstracts

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YOUNGER ONSET DEMENTIA: A RECENT LITERATURE REVIEW

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Objectives: Younger onset dementia (YOD) is any form of dementia that occurs in those <65 years. This review particularly focussed on the service needs of people with younger onset dementia to provide a guide to service design and development.

Methods: Searches of ten relevant bibliographic databases were undertaken (e.g. including Medline, CINAHL, Scopus, Proquest Central). Searches were restricted to articles published since 2000 in English. Search strategies were supplemented with 'snowballing' methods. A rigorous approach to accessing information from non-academic sources ('grey literature') was also applied.

Results: Searches identified 301 articles of major relevance which were rated concerning their strength of evidence. The literature identified the need for:

- * More timely and accurate diagnosis and increased support immediately following diagnosis
- * Individually tailored services addressing life cycle issues and providing age-appropriate programs
- * Examination of the service needs of those living alone with YOD
- * More systematic evaluation of services and programs including more selective use of validated standardised measures, in particular, to assess cognitive status.

Research gaps identified included the need for:

- * Further examination of service utilisation, costs of illness and the cost effectiveness of non pharmacological interventions
- * Current clinical catchment surveys to estimate prevalence, incidence, and life expectancy. Most Australian prevalence estimates were based on pooled data arising from meta-analyses of Western European and Northern American studies conducted in the nineties. Limited data were available concerning the prevalence and incidence of YOD in Indigenous communities but evidence suggested that the prevalence of dementia for this group may be much higher than estimated.

Conclusion: There is a need for studies with stronger research designs, larger sample sizes, a triangulation of methods of outcome assessment and consideration of the control of potentially confounding factors.

References: Sansoni J, Duncan C, Grootemaat P, et al. (2014) *Younger Onset Dementia: A Literature Review*, Centre for Health Service Development, University of Wollongong

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Keywords: Younger onset dementia research gaps, Younger onset dementia service needs