ANKLE-BRACHIAL INDEX AS A MARKER OF DEMENTIA IN GENERAL ELDER POPULATION OF CENTRAL AFRICA IN THE EDAC STUDY

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Introduction: Lower extremities peripheral artery disease (PAD) and dementia (including Alzheimer's Disease) are both common in the ageing population. Most studies are reporting a positive association between a low ABI and dementia in general elder population. In the US, several studies reported a higher risk (2-3 fold) for PAD in African Americans compared to non-Hispanic Whites, whereas a greater risk for dementia was also shown in African Americans.

Aims: To investigate the association between dementia and peripheral artery disease (PAD) in native African populations.

Methods: Two successive door-to-door cross-sectional surveys were carried out in population ≥65 years living in representative districts of Bangui (Central African Republic) and Brazzaville (Congo). Cognitive screening was performed using the Community Screening Interview for Dementia and the Five-Word Test. Diagnosis of dementia was made according to the DSM-IV criteria. We defined PAD when the ankle-brachial index (ABI) ≤0.90.

Results: Eight hundred and nineteen subjects were included in this analysis (359 in Bangui and 460 in Brazzaville). A significant association between PAD and prevalent dementia was found (OR=2.43, p=0.001), even after adjustment on age, sex, city, CVD risk factors, education level and depressive disorders (OR=2.37, p=0.004). In addition, this association was stronger with PAD severity.

Conclusion: Our study confirms the association between PAD and dementia, and suggests the use of ABI measurement in the field of the epidemiology and screening for dementia.