DIFFERENTIAL FAMILIAL AGGREGATION OF EARLY AND LATE ONSET DEMENTIA IN INDIAN SUBJECTS

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Introduction: Early Onset Dementia (EOD) has been reported to be associated with a greater genetic basis. There is a lack of data on family studies on dementia from India.

Aim: The aim was to assess whether there exists a differential familial co-aggregation of dementia in early onset (< 60 years) and late onset (≥ 60 years) dementia proband families.

Methods: A comparison of 52 proband families of dementia with 45 control families was made to assess the familial co-aggregation of dementia through family history method. The average number of informants per family was 2. The cumulative risk in the first degree relatives in the two groups for dementia was calculated and was compared separately with controls using Kaplan Meier Survival analysis.

Results: There were 21 EOD and 31 LOD probands. There was a significantly higher cumulative risk of dementia in EOD proband families (Generalised Wilcoxon, Breslow, 6.791, p=0.009) while it was not so in LOD proband families (Generalised Wilcoxon, Breslow, 0.006, p=0.938).

Conclusion: The present study from India adds to the existing literature that early onset dementia has a greater genetic basis than the late onset dementia. As in many other complex disorders, in dementia, age of onset is an important factor determining the familiality and this appears to be a promising subgroup for further genetic studies.