CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF EARLY-ONSET ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PATIENTS: A CREDOS (CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTER FOR DEMENTIA OF SOUTH KOREA) STUDY


1Neurology, Inje University College of Medicine, Ilsan-Paik Hospital, Goyang, 2Asan Medical Center, University of Ulsan College of Medicine, 3Samsung Medical Center, 4Neurology, Konkuk University Medical Center, Seoul, 5Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine, Suwon, 6Seoul National University Bundang Hospital, Seongnam, 7Ajou University School of Medicine, Suwon, 8Myongji Hospital, Kwandong University College of Medicine, Goyang, 9Seoul National University Boramae Hospital, Seoul, 10Bucheon St.Mary's Hospital, The Catholic University of Korea, Bucheon, 11Chung-Ang University Hospital, Seoul, 12Pusan National University Hospital, Busan, 13Chonnam National University Medical School, Gwangju, 14Gil Medical Center, Gacheon University of Medicine and Science, Incheon, 15MunGyeong Jeil Hospital, MunGyeong, Republic of Korea

Early-onset Alzheimer's disease (EOAD) has several different characteristics compared to late-onset AD (LOAD). The presenting symptoms are more variable and the socioeconomic loss is much more burdensome. Meanwhile, the relatively small number of reports on EOAD does not answer our questions regarding EOAD. We aimed to identify the clinical characteristics of EOAD patients from the Clinical Research Center for Dementia of South Korea (CREDOS) cohort. A total of 343 patients were consecutively included from September 2005 to June 2010. Each patient underwent comprehensive neurological examination, interview for caregiver, laboratory investigations, neuropsychological tests, and brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). The mean age was 63.0 years and the female percentage was 60.9%. The mean period of education was 8.6 years. Of the 221 patients in whom APOE genotyping was performed, 104 (47.1%) were positive for e4. Among the vascular risk factors, hypertension (33.2%) and diabetes mellitus (19.5%) were reported to be the most frequent. In terms of presenting symptoms, memory complaint was 66.9% and non-memory complaint was 10.2%. The mean Korean Mini-Mental State Examination (K-MMSE) score was 18.6 and the mean sum of box scores of Clinical Dementia Rating (CDRSB) was 5.7. On MRI, minimal ischemic change was shown in 77% of patients. In neuropsychiatric inventory, apathy, depression, and anxiety were the most frequent symptoms. This study provides an insight into the different clinical characteristics of EOAD in Korea.