

Risk and Diagnostic Evaluation of Dementia in Schizophrenia

Sanjeev Kumar*

Department of Psychology, University of Rutgers, New Jersey, USA

DESCRIPTION

Dementia is a challenging condition characterized by cognitive decline and memory loss. As our population ages, dementia has become a pressing global health issue. Dementia is not a specific disease but rather than a general term that includes a range of conditions that impair cognitive abilities, memory, and daily functioning. The most common form of dementia is Alzheimer's disease. Other types include vascular dementia, lewy body dementia, and frontotemporal dementia. Regardless of the underlying cause, dementia progressively worsens over time, leading to a significant impact on an individual's quality of life. The fact that dementia and schizophrenia share numerous symptoms, such as delusions, hallucinations, and behavioral changes, adds complexity to the situation. This is especially true for frontotemporal dementia, a type of dementia that typically manifests earlier in life and may resemble symptoms of schizophrenia.

Causes and risk factors

Before developing other symptoms, some people with dementia exhibit psychosis or disconnection from reality. Those individuals who get a diagnosis of late-onset schizophrenia could actually be people who have dementia, but individuals have psychosis as a part of their sickness. When people present with psychosis later in life, this further demonstrates the significance of a thorough medical evaluation that takes into consider both diagnoses. While the exact cause of most dementias remains unknown, several risk factors have been identified. Age is the greatest risk factor, with the likelihood of developing dementia increasing as one grows older. Additionally, genetic factors, family history, and certain medical conditions like hypertension, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease can contribute to the development of dementia. Lifestyle factors such as smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, poor diet, and physical inactivity also play a significant role.

Symptoms and diagnosis

The symptoms of dementia vary depending on the type and stage of the condition. Common signs include memory loss,

confusion, difficulty with language and problem-solving, mood and personality changes, and a decline in cognitive abilities. Early diagnosis is crucial for effective management and care. Physicians employ a comprehensive assessment that includes medical history, cognitive tests, neurological examinations, and brain imaging. While there is no definitive cure for most dementias, early detection allows for interventions and treatment plans that can slow down the progression of symptoms and enhance the quality of life for affected individuals. Brain scans can also reveal changes in the volume and structure of the brain, which may assist in making a diagnosis. Assuming that indications of dementia are available, however schizophrenia is thought, specialists will zero in side effects of psychosis. Assuming psychosis is available, specialists might conclude that schizophrenia is the reason for the mental degradation, and treatment choices will follow.

Management and support

Managing dementia involves a multidisciplinary approach aimed at addressing the physical, cognitive, and emotional aspects of the condition. Medications may be prescribed to manage symptoms, but their effectiveness varies. Non-pharmacological interventions, such as cognitive stimulation therapy, physical exercise, and social engagement in maintaining cognitive function and delaying decline. Caregiver support and education are vital, as dementia places a significant burden on families and caregivers. Support groups, counseling services, and respite care can provide much-needed assistance and respite.

CONCLUSION

Individuals managing schizophrenia and dementia may occasionally deny the seriousness of their conditions or even the presence of their signs and symptoms. Doctors may have difficulty making an accurate diagnosis as a result of this. But, a right determination is basic to managing the symptoms. Dementia is a progressive disorder, meaning it will deteriorate over the long time and could be deadly. It also has the potential to contribute to other health problems that eventually result in death. Schizophrenia isn't fatal, but it needs to be treated regularly to keep it from affecting physical health and well-being

Correspondence to: Sanjeev Kumar, Department of Psychology, University of Rutgers, New Jersey, USA, E-mail: sanjeevkumar902@gmail.com

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too much. Support from partners, family, and friends can have a significant impact on how these conditions progress and whether they will be able to lead decent lives.