

Abstract

Review Article

Social Support and Care for Patients with Alzheimer’s Disease in the Community

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Abstract

Alzheimer’s Disease (AD) is described as a chronic, progressive, degenerative disease of the Central Nervous System (CNS) and the most common type of dementia which affects mainly people over 65 years old. Its symptoms can be misdiagnosed as age-related brain deterioration with memorising difficulties. Epidemiologic studies have documented a lot of causative factors but no specified aetiology has been attributed to the onset of Alzheimer’s Disease. Patients are cared for by healthcare professionals and relatives, when in home. Emotional, esteem, network, information and physical support, social support on the whole, is provided to individuals by their caregivers aiming at making them feel having control over the disease. Care delivered mainly by close family members is complicated and time-consuming, with difficulties in everyday life and social limitations. Local social services, such as “Home care services”, are needed to be involved in the care of a patient with Alzheimer’s disease. Furthermore, support groups, such as patient and/or relative groups, can provide mutual support, sense of belonging and any information needed.

Key words: Alzheimer’s Disease, social support, caregivers