

Frontotemporal dementia in the Marche region: an attempt to estimate incidence and prevalence.

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Background

Frontotemporal dementia is a group of heterogeneous neurodegenerative disorders, less frequent than Alzheimer's Disease but a common cause of young-onset dementia. About 25% of cases are late-life onset. Population studies are rare. The estimated incidence is 2.7–4.1/100,000 and prevalence is 15–22/100,000 with nearly equal distribution by gender. FTD is frequently familial and hereditary. Five genetic loci for causal mutations have been identified, all showing 100% penetrance. Up to now non-genetic risk factors are missing. There is still need for descriptive populations studies, to fill gaps in our knowledge about FTD distribution.

Objective

The aim of the present project is to estimate incidence and prevalence of FTD among the population of Marche region of Italy.

Methods

All Dementia and Cognitive Disturbance Centres (CDCD) of the Marche Region were involved in this project. They were asked to fill a form for each new patient with a diagnosis of FTD. The form addressed several points: clinical history, neuroimaging, genetical analysis and family history. Recruitment started in September 2015. Preliminary data are calculated on a nine month period: forms were available from 6 out 9 centers.

Results

A total of 15 new cases were recruited in the 6 CDCDs leading to an incidence of 9.4/100.000 subjects/six months. 11 patients were diagnosed as bvFTD, 2 patients as PNFA, one by PNFA/CBD, and one by bvFTD/SD. A positive family history for dementia was present in 7/15 patients. Genetical analysis was available in 7 patients and did not reveal known mutations, even in two patients showing family history for dementia.

References

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