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The screening for post stroke dementia among stroke survivors residing at home in the community: Findings from the iCaPPS trial in Peninsular Malaysia

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Background and Rationale

Detection of post stroke dementia in developing countries is challenging as post stroke care is mostly uncoordinated. Cognitive impairment and dementia may be delayed or missed. The Integrated Care Pathway for Post Stroke (iCaPPS) patients advocates primary care team to regularly screen for cognitive decline during follow up visits. This project aimed to estimate the prevalence of dementia among patients who reside at home and receive long term care from public primary care healthcentres.

Methods

A cross sectional study was conducted at ten selected public primary care healthcentres in Peninsular Malaysia, as part of a larger study to assess post stroke care services in the community in 2012. Post stroke patients were identified and recruited. Patients were screened for depression before subjected to screening with the Elderly Cognitive Assessment Questionnaire (ECAQ, ≥ 60 years) and Malay Mini Mental State Examination (M-MMSE, < 60 years, cut off score 17). M-MMSE was also used to quantify severity of cognitive decline in patients who scored < 5 on ECAQ.

Results

Total of 151 patients were recruited. Mean age of patients was 60.2 (SD9.5), with mean age at stroke presentation 55.8 (SD9.8) years. The median duration post stroke was 2.25 (IQR 5.1) years, with 50.3% at more than 2 years post stroke. Most common cause for stroke was ischaemia (70.9%). ECAQ was used on 74 patients where 6.8% scored < 5 . Five patients were not tested due to aphasia. Total of 84 patients were tested using M-MMSE, with 8.3% (7/84) having scores < 17 . Altogether, the total number of patients who screened positive for dementia was 4.8%.

Conclusion

The prevalence of post stroke dementia among patients residing at home in the community at 2 years post stroke was low at 4.8%.

Reference

Chong MS. Making the diagnosis of dementia. 2008. Singapore Family Physician. 35(1):66-72

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared