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Parkinson's disease Dementia and the role of patients' association

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Dementia is a frequent but often unrecognized problem in advanced stages of Parkinson disease (PD). Usually, PD is considered as mostly a motor disease, but non-motor symptoms are influencing the quality of life the most of the patients and caregivers and they are the most important reason for institutionalization of PD patients. A modern approach to PD is holistic and includes individual treatment of motor and non-motor symptoms especially dementia. The point prevalence of Parkinson's disease dementia (PDD) in PD patients is around 30% and around 10% of a PD population will develop dementia per year. Risk factors studied so far are: higher age, more severe parkinsonism, in particular rigidity, postural instability and gait disturbance, and mild cognitive impairment at baseline; and also male gender, education, depression, visual hallucinations can influence on that. There are a lot of different biomarker studies trying to predict pre-dementia stages of cognitive impairment in PD, when we can try with researching of some neuroprotective treatments. We know now a

lot of neurobiological, neuropathological, genetics and laboratories values in predicting dementia. But what is important is how to deal in every-day life. The importance of education, recognition, prevention, early intervention, counseling, supporting, and networking are well-known. In the health systems that are not so well organized considering pre-demented and demented patients, the role of association of PD patients, family members and caregivers is even bigger than you will expected. In this lecture, the role of PD patients association in Croatia in pre-demented and demented PD patients will be discussed.

Biography

Vuletic Vladimira has completed her PhD at the age of 39 years from Osijek University, Croatia. She is the director and Associate professor of Clinical Department of Neurology, University Hospital Rijeka, Croatia and head of Neurology Department on Medical faculty University of Rijeka, Croatia. She has a lot of publication with a lot of citation is an editorial board member of reputed Journals.

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