

Dementia: An Editorial Note

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Welcome back to this new edition of AS Neurology Journal. Talking about the challenges that we have to face as professionals to deal with neurological problems -that every day are bigger and bigger- is a hard task.

I am not a medical doctor, I am a social psychologist who got involved in the field of dementia because my father and seven other members of my family had this problem. So, I started to investigate for myself what this all about. Twenty years ago, at least in my country, there was no information about what Alzheimer was, the most common form of dementia. So, facing this problem at home and start talking with other people who has the same problem gave me a good knowledge about what dementia was.

Dementia is not only a neurological disorder, is more than that. Dementia is a general term for a decline in mental ability severe enough to interfere with daily life. Memory loss is an example and Alzheimer's is the most common type of dementia.

Although we have to consider the dementia a neurological disorder we have to pay attention to other very important matters: the individual itself, the person who has dementia, the family; not only behaviour, but also cultural aspects, feelings, emotions. All of his goes in the same plane.

Dementia is a collective name for progressive brain syndromes which affect memory, thinking, behaviour and emotion. Dementia is the leading cause of disability and dependency among the elderly. Although each person will experience dementia in their own way, eventually those affected are unable to care for themselves and need help with all aspects of daily life.

Working in the private practices with people affected and their families have enriched my knowledge about dementia, about life and how important is to make a good study of all neurological

symptoms to give a good diagnosis and start a good treatment

WHO's ongoing Global Burden of Disease analysis has revealed the huge health burden posed by neurological and psychiatric disorders, which account for more than 13% of the worldwide burden of disease. That figure is expected to rise dramatically over the next few decades and we have to be prepared for this. It is a challenge we have to face all together. This is: professionals, government, authorities, ONG's, media and much more than that. There are a lot of things to do and I hope our work can reach to all those people who need from us.

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