

A systematic review of ethnicity and pathways to care in dementia

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Key Words:

Dementia, CALD, Health Services, Systematic Review

Research aim:

A systematic review to explore why people from minority ethnic (ME) groups with dementia present later to specialist diagnostic and therapeutic dementia services.

Results/Conclusion:

Barriers to accessing specialist help for dementia included: not conceptualising dementia as an illness; believing dementia was a normal consequence of ageing; thinking dementia had spiritual, psychological, physical health or social causes; feeling that caring for the person with dementia was a personal or family responsibility; experiences of shame and stigma within the community; believing there was nothing that could be done to help; and negative experiences of healthcare services.

Recognition of dementia as an illness and knowledge about dementia facilitated accessing help. Conclusions: There are significant barriers to help seeking for dementia in ME groups. These may explain why people from ME groups often presented to therapeutic and diagnostic services at a late stage in their illness.

Implications:

Further study is needed to elucidate the role that ethnicity and culture play in the help-seeking pathway for dementia, and to design and test interventions to improve equity of access to healthcare services.

Cultural Group(s):

CALD

Location of study:

United Kingdom

Age group:

Number included in study:

13 studies were included in the review

Type of participants:

Peer reviewed journal articles

Research approach:

Type of data:

Literature review

Secondary data sources used:

Peer reviewed journal articles

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: