

Factors impacting on early detection of dementia in older people of Asian background in primary healthcare

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Reference:

Key Words:

Research aim:

This paper aims to present a literature review on factors impacting on the early diagnosis of dementia in primary care. Cultural factors pertaining to older people of Chinese and Vietnamese backgrounds are identified and described.

Results/Conclusion:

The review found that despite the benefits and emphasis on early diagnosis of dementia, GPs' uncertainty, insufficient training, ambivalent attitude and therapeutic nihilism have contributed to delayed diagnosis of dementia in CALD populations in primary care. Other factors included time pressures, poor remuneration and lack of CALD appropriate diagnostic tools and services. From the older Chinese and Vietnamese people and their families' perspective, living arrangements, level of dementia literacy, symptom interpretation, stigma associated with dementia and their concept of morality significantly impacted on health-seeking behaviour, contributing to delayed presentation to GPs. Language barriers and lack of bilingual GPs were also found to be deterring factors.

Implications:

There is a need to remove barriers impacting on the timely diagnosis of dementia in primary healthcare for older people from CALD backgrounds. Increasing CALD-appropriate services, workforce training, public awareness and removing stigma may assist.

Cultural Group(s):

Chinese, Vietnamese

Location of study:

Age group:

Number included in study:

N/A

Type of participants:

Research approach:

Type of data:

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes:

Varying expressions of dementia literacy within the Chinese and Vietnamese groups sometimes result in presentation to health services at a later stage of the disease.