

Editorial Article

Dementia – At the Perilous Crossroad of Dengue

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Abstract

Dementia is an altered physiological and psychological as well as neurological abnormality that disrupts the affected person's life, life style, personality, memory and learning abilities and cognitive performance [1]. People suffering from dementia become solely dependent upon the family members, care-givers and related health-care professionals [1]. According to the world health organization (WHO), more than 55 million people have been suffering from dementia worldwide [1]. More than 60% of them live in the underdeveloped and developing countries [1]. Alarmingly, more than 10 million cases of demented people have been added each year [1]. No individual cause could be ascribed with dementia patho-mechanism [1]. Rather, dementia could be considered as an outcome of dysregulation related with multiple metabolic, homeostatic, hormonal and neuronal activities [1].

One of the most recent grave concerns affecting pathophysiology of dementia is the dengue virus (DENV) and dengue fever [2]. DENV has been linked with both central nervous system (CNS) and peripheral nervous system (PNS) abnormalities [2]. DENV induced neuro-inflammatory and neurodegenerative consequences might contribute towards dementia or could worsen the dementia symptoms [2]. Recently, higher risk for developing dementia in the dengue patients have been noticed [3-5]. This might arise from the DENV-mediated vulnerable CNS and PNS states of the dengue patients [3-5]. As the global cases of dengue have been soaring, risk for developing dementia in the already healthy individual or worsening dementia in the already affected ones is up surging. In this context, national and international health-care providers and policy makers should formulate guidelines to mitigate dengue itself and its consequences with a view to withstanding dementia. For this purpose, clinical and research and developmental approaches warrant global attention.

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