

Dementia in the Arab world

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ABSTRACT

Dementia is becoming a public health matter in countries worldwide and the Arab world is no exception. This presentation will review the data available on the incidence, prevalence, subtypes and risk factors of dementia in the Arab World, as well as on societal costs and psycho- social aspects of dementia

Studies on dementia among Arabs are limited, as almost half of the papers are on the Palestinian population living in Wadi Ara in Israel. The available studies show that the pattern of dementia among Arabs is not different from that in other parts of the world. Dementia contributed 11 % of the years lived with disability in people ≥ 60 years old, which is more than the contributions of stroke (9.5 %), cardiovascular disease (5 %), and cancer (2.4 %) .T he cost of dementia in the Arab World was estimated at US\$ 6.6 billion in 2009. This is expected to increase as more people live to old age and as a result have a higher risk of developing dementia