



Care for dementia patients and caregivers and COVID-19 pandemic: Correspondence

Authors contributions

PS 50% -

- 1a Substantial contributions to study conception and design
- 1b. Substantial contributions to acquisition of data
- 1c. Substantial contributions to analysis and interpretation of data
2. Drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content
3. Final approval of the version of the article to be published

VW 50% -

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Dear Editor, we would like to share ideas on the publication "Care for Dementia Patients and Caregivers Amid COVID-19 Pandemic [1]." Paplikar et al. noted that "The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed gaps in health and social care systems across the ... the needs of persons with dementia and their caregivers during periods of emergency [1]." This study is based on the reviewing on the published article and Paplikar et al. finally added their own ideas on the results. Indeed, a systematic meta-analysis on the derived results from included studies might give additional useful data.

Basically, during the pandemic, dementia caregivers had a variety of demands. Supporting people during these difficult times necessitates a multifaceted, pragmatic approach [2]. Systemic reforms, rules and frameworks, enhanced knowledge, technological use, and improved health access are all required [2]. In this study, the recruited publication might be from different settings with different incomes and there should be analysis on this background effect. Since the report stressed on the importance of telemedicine, yet, in less affluent regions with low income and education, use of telemedicine may not be feasible. For example, a recent report from remote poor areas of South Asia, the local people have a serious problem on access to any medical/health care during COVID-19 outbreak [3]. The main issue is unequal distribution of resources, notably telecommunications. Lock-down can cause poor people's income sources to be disrupted, resulting in unintended medication noncompliance [3].

Another factor that Paplikar et al. might not mention is the outbreak severity and stage of outbreak in different recruited studies. With different period of outbreak, the recommendation might require adjustment. We have reached the stage of the COVID-19 pandemic that encouraging mass COVID vaccination is very important, yet, there is reluctance in certain regions among the older people and their caregivers of receiving vaccination, in fear of the side effects. For example, a recent report from Colombia showed that only one-sixth of the caregivers of the elderly gave an opinion on acceptance of COVID-19 vaccination [4]. Hence passing on the right information about the benefit of vaccination is very important as well.

Supporting information

revisionbrain.docx

Declaration of Competing Interest

None

Supplementary materials

Supplementary material associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at [doi:10.1016/j.cccb.2022.100138](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cccb.2022.100138).

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