

The impact of COVID-19 outbreak on individuals with Alzheimer's disease: Information released through online news

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Abstract

Background: Total confirmed cases for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) have been increased quickly worldwide after the emergence of COVID-19 in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. As of January 21, 2021, the total confirmed coronavirus cases are 97,736,758 worldwide with 25,124,602 in the United States (Worldometer). Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the incidence of neurodegenerative diseases including Alzheimer's disease (AD) and Parkinson's disease (PD) had been growing rapidly rendering them major threats to human health. COVID-19 impacted health care for persons with neurodegenerative diseases. This study reviews current research findings and their online news coverage related to the impact of COVID-19 outbreak on persons with Alzheimer's Disease (PWAD) in the 10 months from April 2020 to January 2021 and available resources for caregivers and PWAD.

Method: We searched "COVID-19 Alzheimer's Disease" in Google News and obtained the URLs of all online news reports from April 1st 2020 to January 15, 2021 for data analysis. The news stories were: a. in English language, b. non-duplicate, and c. applicable to Alzheimer's disease occurrence or symptoms related to COVID-19 positive cases. The content of the selected new stories is being analyzed for references to: 1. Upload date of news report; 2. Country in which the patients in the report are located; 3. Hospital or University names/studies; 4. Journal or source of the information that is being reported; 5. Alzheimer's disease signs / symptoms; 6. Physical/ medical comorbidities; 7. Comorbidities / associated neuropsychiatric problems mentioned; 8. Alzheimer's disease management issues; 9. Age of patients.

Result: The study is in progress. We are currently collecting news stories and are analyzing the data.

Conclusion: This study will provide information how the COVID-19 pandemic influences the course of AD and emerging self-management strategies for PWAD.