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Dementia management in the primary care setting across Europe: the EGPRN PREDEM study."EGPRN connected"

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Background: The growing burden of dementia has been extensively shown in the literature and the GP is often the first health professional that patients or their families consult about memory loss. General practice is the cornerstone of European health care systems which however differ considerably in many characteristics of the management of chronic diseases. The European General Practice Research Network (EGPRN) therefore wanted to find out more about the management of dementia in primary care in Europe. Research question: How is dementia managed in primary care in Europe?

Methods: A key informant survey to primary care practices in 25 European countries was designed. Among other issues we wanted to explore who is responsible for establishing the diagnosis of dementia and initiating drug treatment; which specific tests for cognitive dysfunction are used; and what could be done to improve in this field. A systems mapping of dementia management in health care in the participating countries has been performed and will be presented.

Results: The results of our survey show considerable differences in the way dementia is managed across Europe. In some countries GPs are entitled to start and manage most of the dementia workup while in others this is only done by secondary care specialists.

Conclusion: This study has highlighted large differences in dementia management in the primary care setting across Europe.