

W74

Assessing dementia risk in general practice: what does the public think and what do family doctors need to know?

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Background & Aim: Reducing the prevalence of dementia is a global public health challenge. Recent research and international WHO guidance has highlighted the importance of identifying people at risk of dementia and giving tailored advice to delay onset. There has been little research exploring the views of professionals, patients and public towards dementia risk and the role of primary care. This workshop aims to present findings from focus groups with members of the public in England and explore the views of participants in terms of their knowledge of risk reduction, risk reduction tools (including genetic markers) and their use in primary care internationally.

Method: An interactive workshop will be used to explore this topic. Task group methodology has been chosen as participants may have different levels of knowledge about dementia, opportunities for diagnosis, and strategies for risk reduction. A brief presentation of risk reduction in dementia and results from focus groups with members of the public in England will be given followed by a facilitated group discussion. By presenting information in a standardized format to participants we can explore clinicians' knowledge and opinions of different approaches, and variation by healthcare setting.

Results: It is hoped the results of this workshop will identify current knowledge requirements of primary care professionals and identify barriers and facilitators to implementing dementia risk tools into primary care. It is hoped it will inform a multicentre collaborative project delivered by three UK Universities (Newcastle University, University College London and Nottingham University) exploring professionals, public and patients view of dementia risk.

Conclusions: Identifying and giving tailored advice to reduce personal risk of dementia is one way to help reduce the global burden of dementia. Determining barriers and facilitators to dementias risk tools being used in primary care is essential to inform dementia prevention programmes that are acceptable to family doctors.