

Cognitive Function of Centenarians and Semi-Supercentenarians

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The recent prolongation of life span has led to an expansion of the oldest old population in developed countries. Simultaneously the numbers of demented elderly has also increased. Increasing prevalence of dementia with age raised a scientific question whether dementia is inevitable or not. This is not only of scientific concern but also sociological, political problem which influence on the future society.

Centenarians are a good population to survey dementia prevalence in the oldest old. To date several studies have reported the prevalence of dementia amongst centenarians; however, the results from these studies are highly diversified (40% to 100%). This variation may be caused by sampling methodology or variation of participation age.

To overcome this problem we examined dementia status of wide ranged age centenarians in one population. Hundred ninety six centenarian (100+) and 270 semi-supercentenarian (105+) were evaluated dementia status by CDR(Clinical dementia rating).

The results indicated, firstly, that dementia prevalence are high in both 100+ (67%) and 105+ (87%). Secondly, there are large sex difference. Dementia prevalence in women increased according to the age and almost all participants were evaluated as demented over 109 years. In men, although number of participants was small and no more than 109 years old were participated, half of the participants were not demented.

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