

R028: Early and late onset of dementia in Northern Ireland – QUB

People with early onset dementia account for 5% of all people with dementia. Early onset dementia, also known as young-onset dementia, concerns dementia in people less than 65 years old. In 2015, there were 42000 people with early onset dementia in the United Kingdom, with over 1140 of them living in Northern Ireland (Alzheimer's Society, 2015; Alzheimer's Society & Marie Curie, 2015). Research exploring the causes of early onset dementia has demonstrated that genetic factors are a cause for less than 1% of all cases (Tellechea et al., 2017). More frequent causes include Alzheimer's disease, vascular diseases, Huntington's disease, traumatic brain injury, brain tumour, HIV, chronic alcoholism and chronic drug abuse (McMurtray, Clark, Christine, & Mendez, 2006; Werner, Stein-Shvachman, & Korczyn, 2009). Another risk factor for early onset dementia is diabetes (Zilkens, Davis, Spilsbury, Semmens, & Bruce, 2013). Research has also explored mortality rates and causes of death in people with early onset dementia.

Dementia experts highlight the need to update dementia and healthcare services to cover the needs of people with early onset dementia (Alzheimer's Society & Marie Curie, 2015) since the existing specialist services target mainly people with late onset dementia. Therefore, the present study aims to explore comorbidities in people with early onset dementia in Northern Ireland, as well as mortality rates, causes of death and differences in drug treatments in order to inform current practices in dementia care.