Epidemiology of dementia

With particular focus on time trends and methodology

Dementia is a clinical syndrome characterised by loss of vital cognitive functions, resulting in impaired function in activities of daily living. There are many types of dementia, with the two most common being Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia, none of which are curable. Dementia is common among octogenarians, an age group that is rapidly increasing. Therefore, the number of individuals living with dementia is expected to increase dramatically. However, as dementia is related to a number of modifiable risk factors, the epidemiology of dementia might change over time. The overall aim of this thesis was to study the epidemiology of dementia, with a particular focus on time trends in incidence, prevalence, and mortality of dementia, and methodological aspects regarding data collection and diagnostics.

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