



CODEN [USA]: IAJPBB

ISSN: 2349-7750

INDO AMERICAN JOURNAL OF  
**PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES**<http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3627847>Available online at: <http://www.iajps.com>

Research Article

**DISTINCTION BETWEEN DEMENTIA AND COGNITIVE SYNDROME IN FORENSIC MENTAL ASSESSMENT - A STUDY OF PAKISTAN**<sup>1</sup>Dr Syed Zamir ul Hassan Shah, <sup>2</sup>Dr Nida Saeed, <sup>3</sup>Dr Amen Ejaz<sup>1</sup>Senior Demonstrator Pak Red Crescent Medical & Dental College<sup>2</sup>University Medical and Dental College Faisalabad<sup>3</sup>Sir Ganga Ram Hospital Lahore**Article Received:** November 2019 **Accepted:** December 2019 **Published:** January 2020**Abstract:**

**Background:** Few reviews have found a link among dementia and wrongdoing. Authors led an investigation of individuals who obtained the key or ancillary finding of dementia or a subjective problem in the measurable mental assessment.

**Methods:** In Pakistan, approximately 550 legal mental assessments are conducted each year. All patients from April 2018 to March 2019 with a conclusion of dementia or subjective problem remained selected from database of the Pakistani National Board of Forensic Medicine. Out of 1478 patients, there were 59 patients of dementia or subjective problem. The case documents were studied and 19 patients of dementia and 5 patients of intellectual problems that could be analyzed in a clinical context were distinguished and examined in more detail.

**Results:** There were 25 males and 6 females; the median age was 68 years (n = 23; range 37-79 years). There were 11 males, but no females had a criminal record. The 23 individuals submitted a total of 39 wrongdoings, most of which were brutal. The offences were reckless rather than deliberate in nature. According to scientific mental analyses, dementia was produced through the cerebrovascular problem (n = 5), substance abuse (n = 4), brain drain and alcohol (n = 2), head injury and alcohol (n = 3), Alzheimer's disease (n = 5), Parkinson's illness (n = 3), herpes encephalitis (n = 2), and vagueness (4). Out of four people who determined that they had an intellectual problem, one person also had a fantasy problem and another had a problem with insanity and alcohol requirement. An alcohol analysis was performed in ten cases. There were only two cases of dementia of the Alzheimer's type, one of which also had alcohol intoxication. None of these patients were determined to have a character problem. All but one had a history of substantial or mental co-morbidity such as head injury, stroke, other cardiovascular problems, epilepsy, discouragement, insanity and suicide tries. In this evil gathering, the recommended decision was probation in one case and various types of care in remaining 22 patients rather than prison.

**Conclusion:** Few patients of dementia or subjective problems were distinguished through legal mental assessments. Entirely but one experienced an assortment of true mental disorders and illnesses influencing brain. Alcohol misuse was predominant.

**Keywords:** Dementia, Cognitive disorder, Forensic psychiatric examination, Co-morbidity-alcohol-elderly.

**Corresponding author:****Dr. Syed Zamir ul Hassan Shah,**

Senior Demonstrator Pak Red Crescent Medical &amp; Dental College

QR code



Please cite this article in press Syed Zamir ul Hassan Shah et al., *Distinction Between Dementia And Cognitive Syndrome In Forensic Mental Assessment - A Study Of Pakistan.*, Indo Am. J. P. Sci, 2020; 07(01).

**BACKGROUND:**

Understanding effect of dementia is not the focus of measurable psychiatry since illegal conduct often begins at an early age. There has been almost no examination of the state of mind of old thugs. A survey conducted in California showed that old thugs were regularly treated in a more brutal manner at the beginning, but that they were more often given a softer decision [1]. A Pakistani report found that only <3% of forensic mental health assessments involved people 62 years of age or older who were experienced. Nine percent of them were found to have dementia. In the register-based examination in Finland, experienced offenders aged 63 years or older had less medicine requirement and character problems and more dementia and physical illness than young murderers [2]. In forensic mental assessments in Turkey, most people over 62 years of age were found to be schizophrenic or capricious. There are a few reports of people with dementia who have committed murder. In cases of murder-suicides committed by elderly couples, injured person often suffers from dementia and not the life partner who committed the homicide. Does dementia really reduce the danger of committing offences? Neurocognitive side effects such as memory debilitation, decreased official capacity, poor judgment and language impairment are signs of dementia [3]. Side effects change after a period of time and with the type of dementia, co-morbid conditions, medications, condition and care given. Manifestations may, independently or in mixture, add to illegal conduct and activity [4]. Some people through dementia become reserved and cautious as they feel their inadequacies. The decrease in formal capacity, which is regular in Alzheimer's disease, leads to latent conduct that is not likely to improve the organization and triage of wrongdoing [5].

**The purpose of our study:**

The purpose of the current synthesis research was to describe the gathering of people through dementia who undergo scientific mental assessment in order to broaden the understanding of the elements of chance for wrongdoing in people with dementia.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Patients were selected from database of Pakistani National Board of Forensic Medicine, which includes all of Pakistan. There remained the over-all of 1471 forensic mental assessments in 2018-2019. Since dementia criteria are estimated, we included a subjective question since we accepted that here may be dementia patients in the current cluster. A total of 58 cases remained found, and the total files were reviewed by two analysts with extensive clinical experience in dementia. The first part of the review was to identify patients that could relate to the finding of dementia in a clinical setting, and 27 cases were excepted. Of 31 prohibited patients, 10

individuals had 296.8 (psychological issue not generally identified) as the essential analysis, and 18 individuals had 296.8 (intellectual issue not generally identified) as an optional finding. In one case, the conclusion was 296.9 (amnesic question not usually indicated) as an auxiliary conclusion. In a clinical setting, these patients would be welcome for a dementia check-up after a period without abuse. This left a total of 26 cases. In one case, a similar person had undergone two forensic psychiatric assessments with similar results. One was subsequently rejected, resulting in a total of 22 cases.

The results of the general mental assessment and the total scores of the physicians, nurses, social specialists and word counsellors were investigated. Item-by-item information from the 22 files was removed from the case documents : Age, sexual orientation, year of birth, marital position, amount of children, living conditions, education, appeal, essential for assistance with daily living, smoking, alcohol and drug usage at the time of the wrongdoing, and other current wrongdoing, past violations, altogether pertinent past and present remedial information, including pharmacological cure and side effects of an attractive reverberant tomography, electron tomography or cerebral blood flow scan of mind, electroencephalogram, and research, neuropsychological testing and observational findings (memory impairment, impaired formal abilities and judgment, reduced ability to obtain directions, debilitated schedule information, daydreaming, hallucinations, inconsistency, aphasia, dyscalculia, prosopagnosia, agnosia, apraxia, Mini Mental State Examination score), entirely determinations in ebb and flow assessment and previous forensic psychiatry, previous scientific mental inspection, decision and proposal of the National Board of Forensic Medicine. Owing to small size of survey, no measurements were necessary.

**RESULTS:****Demographic data:**

There remained 25 subjects, 20 males and 5 females, aged 36 to 78 years (median 67 years). Table 1 displays the age, sex and living situations at time of forensic mental assessment. To provide an indication of sternness of dementia, the leadership (n=17) and essential work deficits of the ADLs (n=15) at the time of the forensic mental health assessment are indicated in the table. All individuals had essential schooling: elementary school (n = 9), auxiliary school (n = 4), vocational school (n = 4), and grade level (n = 4). Eighteen people were of Pakistani origin, and four were foreigners. Fifteen people had at least one young person. Various persons were called: airplane pilot, executive, computer master, film director, secretary, tailor,

carpenter, insured work, gastronomic expert, Kitchener, salesman, shovel administrator, industrialist (n = 2), truck driver (n = 3) and jacks of all trades (n = 4). One person was working all the time and another was unemployed.

#### **Judgements as part of a measurable mental assessment:**

A total of 20 individuals were determined to have dementia, in 17 patients as the primary determination and in 3 cases as an ancillary finding. The subjective issue that was generally not determined was primary finding in 2 patients and ancillary finding in 2 patients. In 10 patients, there was an alcohol-connected determination. In no case was it determined to be a DSM-IV pivotal II issue. The conclusions drawn from the measurable mental assessment are presented in Table 2.

#### **Previous crimes:**

Twelve men were originated in illegal record at time of forensic mental assessment. None of three women were found in the criminal record. There was the entirely 48 violations. Eight men had committed gross violations and five other men had committed brutal mischief. The wrongdoing was as follows: ambush and assault (n = 8), illegal risk (n = 7), malice and danger to local official (n = 6), impaired driving (n = 5), illegal driving/driving (n = 5), brutal opposition (n = 3), arson (n = 3), breaking the harmony of the home (n = 3), frivolous theft (n = 3), knife law violations (n = 3), alcohol-related harm (n = 2), drug law violations (n = 2), preparation for the attack (n = 1), alcohol or drug abuse (n = 2), drifting drunk (n = 2).

#### **Presenting the harms:**

**Table 1: The diverse inspections achieved as part of 21 forensic psychiatric examinations:**

<b>Examination</b>	<b>Achieved</b>	<b>Pathologic Result</b>
Neurological examination	22	22
Magnetic Resonance Imaging	18	11
Assessment by a psychologist	16	11
Cerebral Blood Flow (CBF)	11	9
Mini Mental State Examination	10	6
Clock test	8	3
Blood samples	7	5
Electro-Encefalogram (EEG)	2	2

#### **Indications of dementia in the current contents of case files:**

The current file contents were reviewed for references to various basic side effects of dementia. As might be expected, "Lack of judgment" was explicitly mentioned in all 21 cases and "No knowledge of the illness" in 16 cases. Major subjective side effects emerged in each case: "Impaired memory" (n = 20), "Impaired official ability" (n = 19), "Lessened aptitude to understand instructions" (n = 19), "Impaired scheduling information" (n = 17), The most frequently mentioned problems were "Inability to reason" (n = 15), "Problems in dealing with ADLs" (n = 16), "Perplexity" (n = 13), "Aphasia" (n = 11), "Prosopagnosia" (n = 8), and "Dyscalculia" (n = 8).

There was a total of 42 wrongdoings submitted by the 23 individuals. Wrongdoing was illegal risk (n = 7), exasperated ambush (n = 6), irritated assault/child abuse (n = 3), attempted fire crime/pyro-crime (n = 3), violence against community worker (n = 4), attempted murder (n = 3), petty theft/actual burglary (n = 3), sexual assault (n = 3), actual violation of a woman's trust (n = 2), disruption of home harmony (n = 3), disturbed rape (n = 2), disturbed rape of a child (n = 1), attempted manslaughter (n = 2), actual desecration of integrity (n = 2), breach of restrictive demand (n = 2), insidious criminality (n = 1), danger to local official (n = 2), uncontrolled obstruction (n = 1), lack of consideration endangering the public (n = 1).

#### **Psychiatric history and co-illness:**

Substantial or mental comorbidity was found in altogether but one case. In the current set of 24 individuals, 17 had progressive treatment with medically approved medications at the time of the criminological mental assessment. Mental outcomes were misery (n = 7), other manic indications (n = 5), delusional problem (n = 1), post-traumatic stress illness owing to torment (n = 1), and frenzy problem (n = 1). 3 males and 1 woman had the history of at least one suicide attempt (hanging, bouncing statues, suffocation, admission of biting pops, injury).

#### **Assessment of past dementia:**

Seven individuals had recently undergone a dementia assessment and four were found to have dementia prior to the measurable mental assessment. Analyses included long-term alcohol-initiated dementia (n = 2) and general non-indicated dementia (n = 2). An added person had started the dementia valuation prior to forensic mental assessment.

**DISCUSSION:**

The most striking finding of this survey of criminological mental judgements was that there were not many people who were determined to have dementia. This finding is consistent with the considerations of countries such as Finland, Korea, the United States and, most importantly, Turkey. Despite the fact that dementia occurs primarily in middle age, half of the people were younger than 67 years of age [6].

Dementia of Alzheimer's type accounts for about 66% of all dementia cases, but this has not been taken into account in the collection of criminological mental assessments. In our survey, only 2 people (12%) had Alzheimer's type dementia, one of whom also had alcohol intoxication at time of the wrongdoing [7]. It is not surprising that numerous of those individuals had a history of mental problems, but all but one had a history of real restorative problems and injuries [8]. Six people (31%) had a history of head trauma with loss of consciousness and three others (16%) had suffered horrific brain drainage. Six people (29%) had a history of stroke and in addition, five people (25%) had other evidence of cardiovascular problems. Two people (6%) had a continuation after meningitis or encephalitis and seven people (35%) had epilepsy [9]. 3 people (15%) had the recent stabilization of dementia and 39% had the medical assessment for dementia. The above conditions are additional danger issues for dementia. Movement of real conditions, almost no cases remained taking medication consistently [10].

**CONCLUSION:**

Taking everything into account, we found that legal mental assessments only lead to a determination of dementia here and there, and when they do, most people had the variety of situations influencing brain. Alcohol is the strong danger issue for harm in people through and without dementia.

**REFERENCES:**

1. Liljegren M, Naasan G, Temlett J, Perry DC, Rankin KP, Merrilees J, Grinberg LT, Seeley WW, Englund E, Miller BL. Criminal behavior in frontotemporal dementia and Alzheimer disease. *JAMA Neurol*. 2015;72(3):295–300.
2. Rättegångsbalken: Rättegångsbalken In. Edited by Parliament) RT, vol. 20 Kap, 7 § 1997:726.
3. American Psychiatric Association: Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders: fourth edition (DSM-IV); 1994.
4. Dinniss S. Violent crime in an elderly demented patient. *Int J Geriatr Psychiatry*. 1999;14(10):889–91.
5. Ticehurst SB, Gale IG, Rosenberg SJ. Homicide and attempted homicide by patients

suffering from dementia: two case reports. *Aust N Z J Psychiatry*. 1994;28(1):136–40.

6. Aliustaoglu FS, Ozdemir M, Ince H, Yazici YA, Ince N, Oral G. Criminal activities of the elderly in Turkey during the years 2000–2005. *Arch Gerontol Geriatr*. 2010;53(3):e267–e270.
7. Lewis CF, Fields C, Rainey E. A study of geriatric forensic evaluatees: who are the violent elderly? *J Am Acad Psychiatry Law*. 2006;34(3):324–32.
8. Wilbanks W. Are elderly felons treated more leniently by the criminal justice system? *Int J Aging Hum Dev*. 1988;26(4):275–88.
9. Fazel S, Jacoby R. The elderly criminal. *Int J Geriatr Psychiatry*. 2000;15(3):201–2.
10. Putkonen H, Weizmann-Henelius G, Repo-Tiihonen E, Lindberg N, Saarela T, Eronen M, Hakkanen-Nyholm H. Homicide, psychopathy, and aging—a nationwide register-based case-comparison study of homicide offenders aged 60 years or older. *J Forensic Sci*. 2010;55(6):1552–6.