Abstract

Background: Dementia is one of the main problems in public health, affecting 5 to 10% of the elder population. The cost-effectiveness analysis of the ancillary tests is controversial. The object of this research is to make a review of the recent studies related to neuroimaging and dementia. Method and Results: English and Spanish studies published in the last ten years were searched in Medline, using evidence-based techniques. 13 systematic reviews were found and analysed. Conclusion: While reversible cases of dementia are rare once detected, most of the experts recommend the routine use of computarised tomography scanning. If the access to this test were restricted, there are some rules to select patients. Magnetic resonance imaging is better for the diagnosis of some subtypes of dementia like Creutzfeldt-Jakob, Huntington or CADASIL. Volumetry, spectrometry, PET and SPECT would be reserved to investigation protocoles or special cases of diagnostic doubt.

Keywords

Dementia, diagnosis, neuroimaging, SPECT, tomography, resonance, magnetic.