SUMMARY

Dementia is a chronic disease usually among the elderly with predominantly cognitive deficits and sometimes with psychiatric/behavioural disturbances.

The objectives of the study were:

1. To determine the prevalence of Dementia in this locality

2. To determine the various types of Dementia existing in the locality Folstein Mini Mental state screening instrument was used to determine those with cognitive impairment significant enough to be subjected to the ICD 10/GMS AGECAT criteria for the diagnosis of Dementia. Subjects were further classified according to the severity of illness and types based on CRD scale DSM IV and Hachiniski instruments.

The Prevalence of Senile Dementia in this study was found to be 7.2% Fifty (61^) of the subjects had mild Dementia with moderate and severe dementia being 19 (31%) and 7 (8%) respectively. Majority of the subjects had no formal education and were widowed.

Twenty four (30%) of the subjects studied had co-morbid psychiatric disorders 50% of whom had depression. Vascular Dementia was the commonest (57.9%) followed by other Dementias 35.5% with the least being Alzheimer’s type 6.6%. Males were more represented than females in the vascular type while females were more represented in the Alzheimer’s and other Dementias.

In Conclusion, Dementia still remains a disorder of the elderly, and he risk and prevalence increases with age among the elderly.