

Time to diagnosis of primary progressive aphasia in high- and upper-middle-income countries: preliminary results

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INTRODUCTION

- **PPA** is a neurodegenerative disorder characterized by a progressive linguistic impairment;
- Whereas its prognosis is deeply influenced by early intervention, the diagnosis is challenging and it may be affected by multiple factors;
- The impact of socioeconomic aspects on PPA diagnosis remains unclear.

Thus, this study aimed to **compare the time to diagnose** PPA between high- and upper-middle-income countries.

METHODS

- This is a retrospective, cross-sectional, comparative study;
- It was carried out in collaboration with international researchers and had 4 countries included* (classified into 2 groups according to income level);

*Local ethical approval was an inclusion criterion.

Upper-middle-income	High-income
 Brazil: n=75 (84.3%)	 UK: n=17 (45.9%)
 Turkey: n=14 (15.7%)	 Italy: n=20 (15.9%)

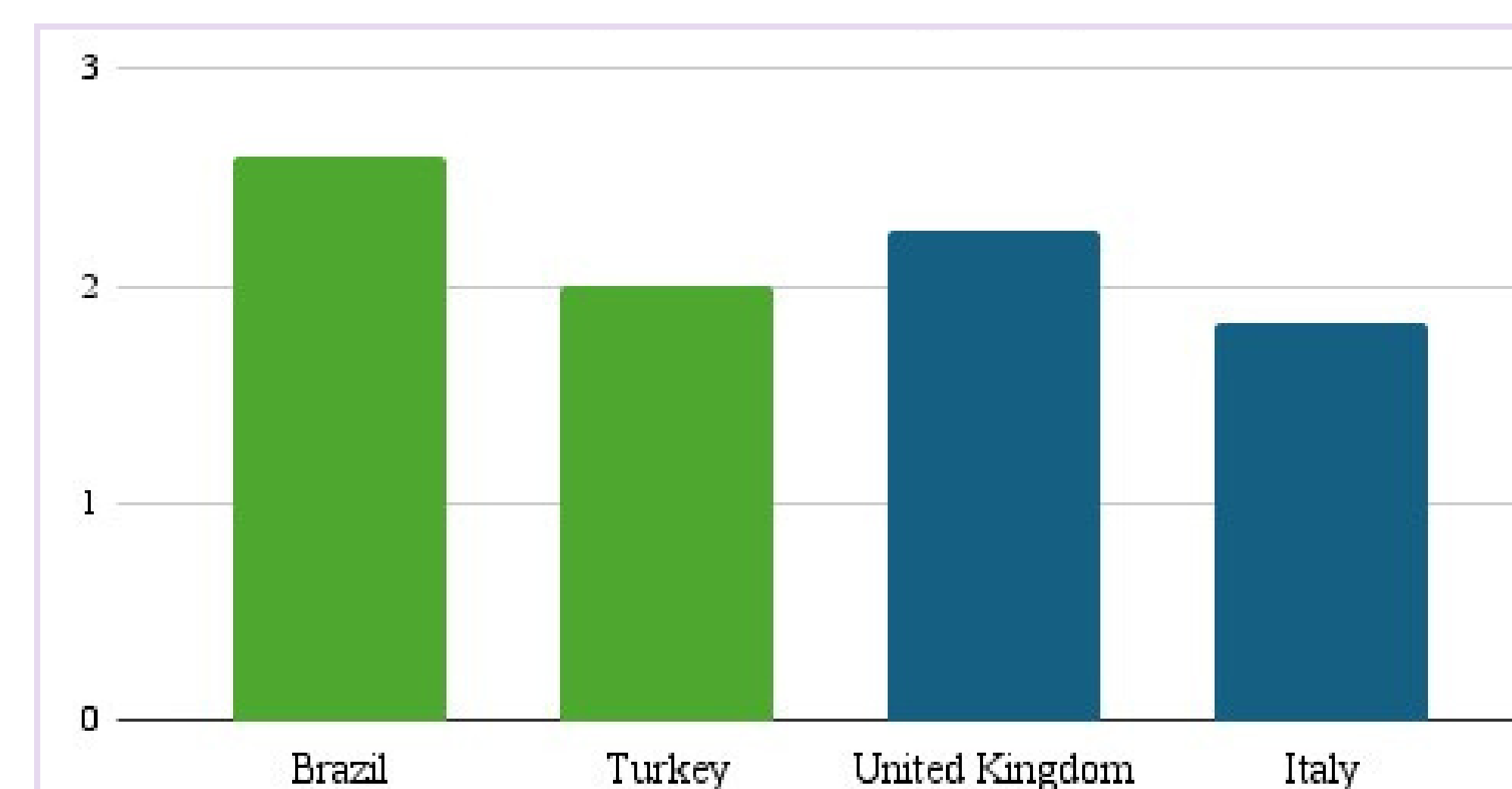
Statistical analysis:
SPSS software, with a significance level set at 5% ($p = 0.05$).



KEY TAKE AWAY: The delay in PPA identification is the first indicator of a systemic failure in the care provided to these individuals, which is further exacerbated in countries with poorer socioeconomic conditions. Therefore, it is essential to improve and expand access to public health, especially on dementia care.

RESULTS

- **Final sample:** 126 individuals from 4 countries; the majority were women from upper-middle-income countries;
 - Significant difference ($p = 0.01$) was observed: regarding the primary outcome (**longer time to diagnosis in upper-middle-income countries**); and regarding PPA variants;
 - No significant difference was observed between time to diagnosis and other variables within each group.



Graph 1: time to diagnosis of PPA (years) - Mean.

- **Shortest** average time to diagnose PPA = 1.8 years;

- **Longest** average time to diagnose PPA = 2.6 years.

CONCLUSION

The **time** required for **diagnosing PPA**, as well as the **classification of its variants**, may be influenced by the socioeconomic conditions, even in the absence of significant differences in important variables such as education level. Nonetheless, these results are preliminary, and final conclusions will be drawn after including additional countries.