

Clinical profile and diagnostic characteristics of cognitive impairment in patients with suspected dementia in a tertiary center in the Caribbean

Autors: Dra. Minelly Rodríguez, Dra. Manuela Jerez.

Introduction

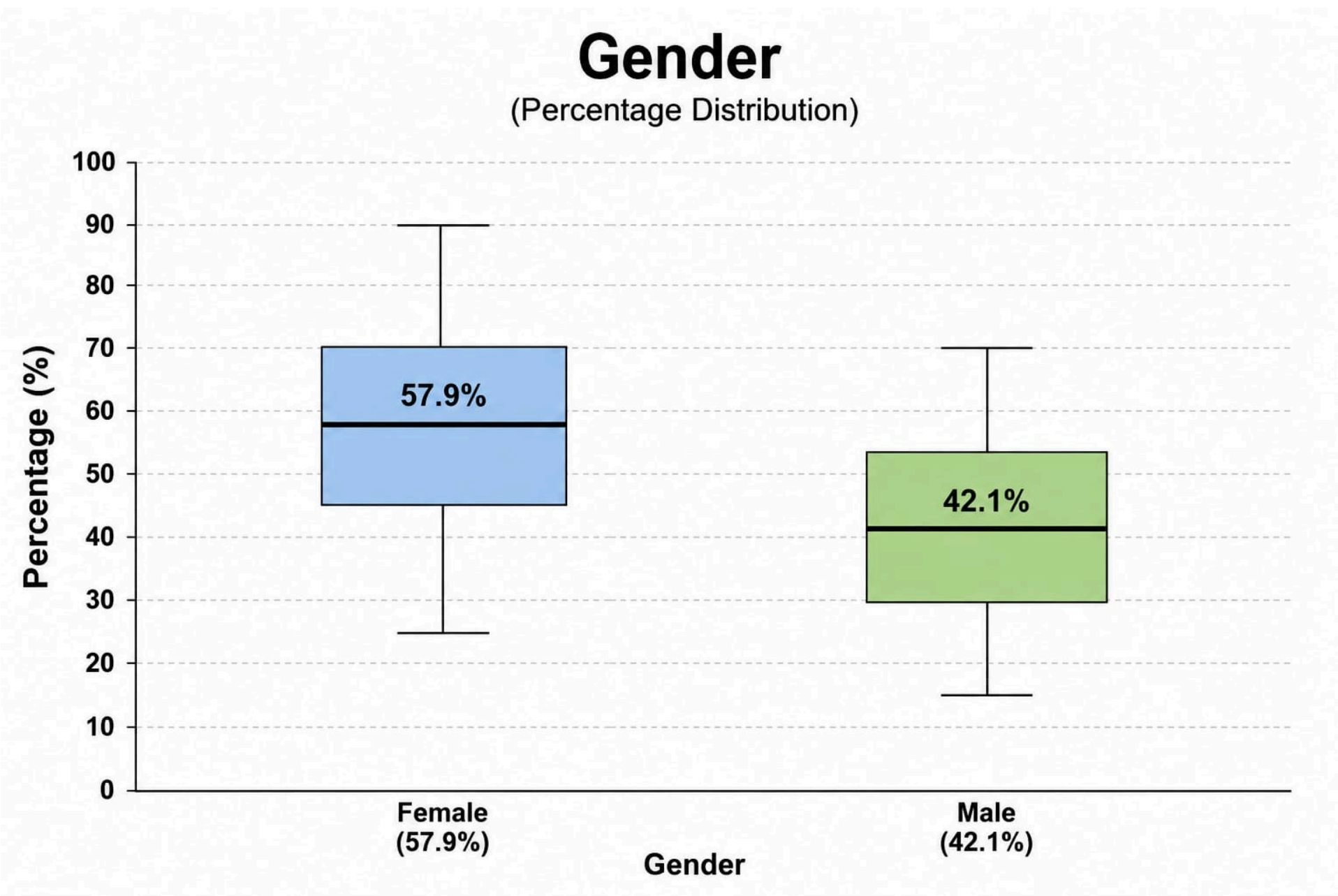
Cognitive impairment represents a prodromal stage of dementia, with subtle cognitive changes that may precede clinical diagnosis by up to two decades. In low- and middle-income countries, limited access to biomarkers highlights the importance of clinical assessment and cognitive scales for early diagnosis.

Objective

To explore the relationship between Global Deterioration Scale (GDS) staging and duration of cognitive impairment; to compare clinical profiles according to cognitive impairment subtype (amnesic vs. non-amnesic); and to contrast clinical characterization based on cognitive scales with cases that had cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) biomarker confirmation.

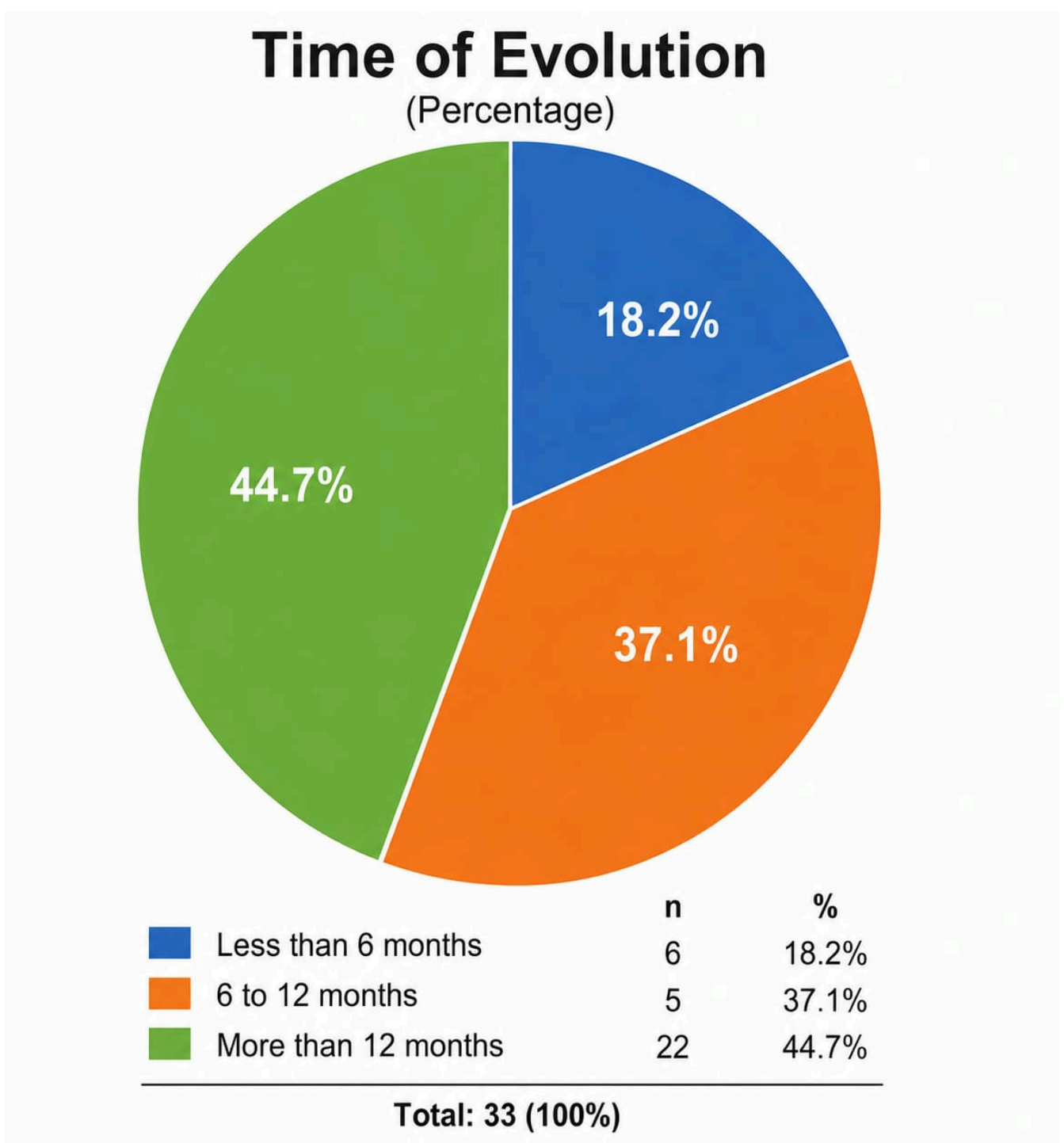
Method

A descriptive, retrospective, and cross-sectional study was conducted through medical record reviews. Sociodemographic and clinical variables were analyzed, including progression time, GDS stage, type of cognitive impairment, clinical profile, cognitive assessment scales, and CSF analysis results (Tau/Amyloid index). The analysis was performed using descriptive statistics, employing absolute frequencies and percentages.



Results

The sample was predominantly female (57.9%), with a prevalence of patients between 60 and 79 years old. Most had a university education (55.3%) and a history of employment (71.1%). The most frequent progression time was greater than 12 months (44.7%). Intermediate GDS stages predominated, mainly GDS 4 (39.5%) and GDS 5 (28.9%), showing an association between longer progression time and greater clinical severity.



Amnesic cognitive impairment was the most frequent (78.9%) and was primarily associated with Alzheimer's Disease, which accounted for 73.7% of the diagnoses. CSF analysis was available for 10.6% of patients, showing consistency with the clinical profile established through cognitive scales.

Conclusion

In this sample, amnesic cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's Disease predominated, with a direct relationship observed between progression time and clinical severity as measured by the GDS scale. Cognitive assessment scales proved to be useful tools for clinical characterization, even in the absence of biomarker confirmation via CSF.

1. Jack CR, JR,Andrews, J, S, Beach, TG, Buracchio Et al. Revised Criteria for diagnosis and staging..Alzheimers Dement 2024. Alzheimer Associatyion Workgropu. alzheimer and Dementia, 20(8), 5143-5169.
2. Scheltens P, et al. Alzheimers diswease. Lnacet Neurol.2023.
3..Crivelli L, et al. Cognitive screening in LMC, Int J Geriatric Pssychiatry. 2022