

## Change of Symptoms of Depression and Anxiety after the Diagnostic Disclosure of Alzheimer's Disease

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This prospective cohort study investigated how symptoms of depression and anxiety change 2 to 5 weeks after diagnostic disclosure following a memory consultation. Furthermore, it was investigated whether symptoms change differently if the information "Alzheimer's Disease" was given during diagnostic disclosure and with more advanced dementia.

Among 60 patients contacted, 29 who attended the memory consultation at the Hospital of Fribourg were included. Depressive and anxious symptoms were evaluated at the time of the consultation and 2 to 5 weeks after diagnostic disclosure using two questionnaires (HADS and GA-VAS). The severity of Neurocognitive impairment was evaluated by Clinical Dementia Rating.

Results indicated an increase in depressive symptoms after diagnostic disclosure for all patients. In addition, patients diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease exhibited more depressive symptoms after the disclosure, as compared to patients who received other information. Patients with a higher severity of dementia were found to have more depressive symptoms overall, as compared to patients with less severe dementia.

Anxiety, on the other hand, remained stable after diagnostic disclosure and no influence of the respective information or the severity of dementia was found.

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