

# Impact of COVID-19 on severity of dementia

Megha Tiwari, Faheem Arshad, Feba Varghese, Jayeeta Rajagopalan, Saadiya Hurzuk, Tejaswini S Manae, HM Rakshith, Vasundharaa S Nair, Priya Treasa Thomas, Chandrasekhar Kammamettu and Suvarna Alladi.

## Introduction

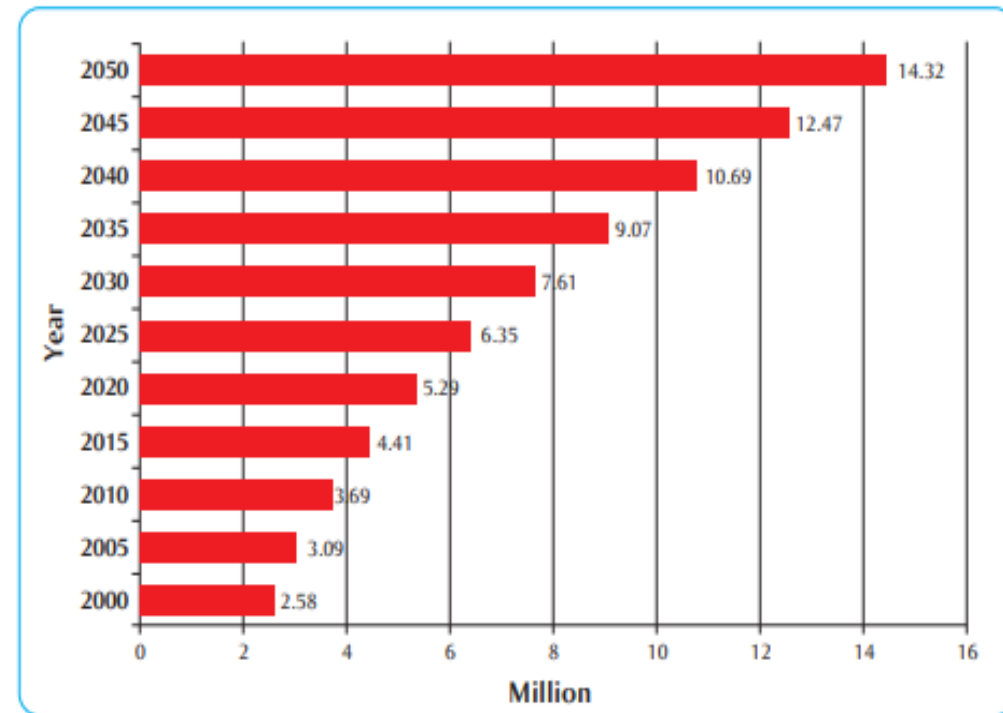
- An estimated 5.29 million persons with dementia live in India as per the projections for 2020 [ARDSI,2010].
- Limited evidence exists on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on persons living with dementia in low and middle income countries

## Aim

- The present study aims to understand changes in dementia severity over two distinct phases of COVID-19 pandemic in India.
- In addition, we also explored vaccination uptake among persons with dementia

## Future Projections

Figure 2.3: Estimation of number of PwD over 60 years in India between 2000 and 2050



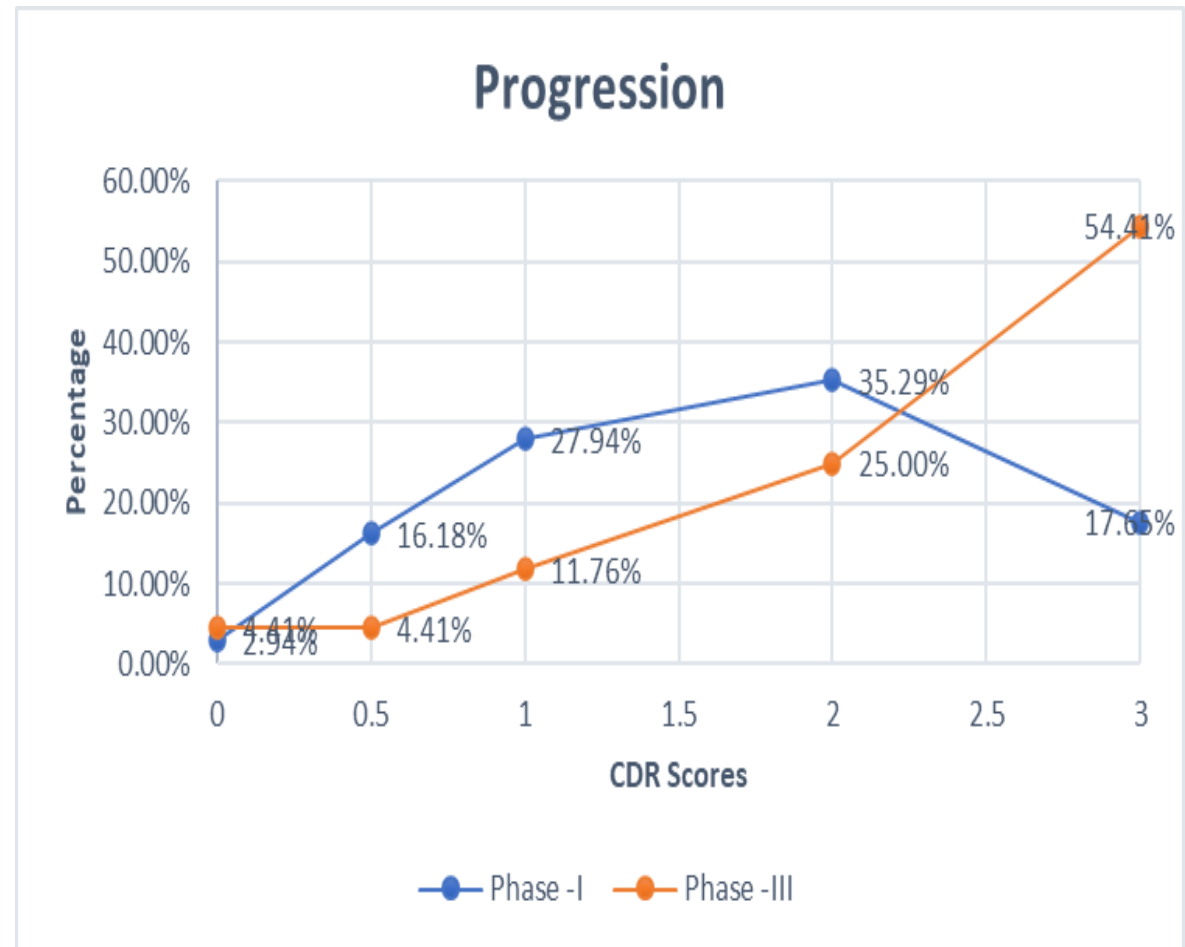
Source: ARDSI(2010)

## Methods

- Study adopts a quantitative approach
- Data from the present study (N=68) (June 1<sup>st</sup>-October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021) was compared to an established baseline which was collected during early phases of the COVID-19 pandemic in India (N=104) (May 15<sup>th</sup>- June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020).
- Clinical Dementia Rating Scale, Brief interview regarding vaccination

## Results

- We found a statistically significant difference ( $p<0.001$ ) in dementia severity between the two phases.



## Results

- 60.2% of persons with dementia were not vaccinated.
- Few reasons highlighted by the caregivers were:
  - worsening of condition of their relatives with dementia
  - uncertainty regarding the impact of vaccination on the person with dementia
  - difficulties in going outside.

Is Patient Vaccinated		
	N	Percentage
No	41	60.29%
Yes	27	39.70%

## Conclusion

- Our findings demonstrated a significant progression in dementia severity from Phase 1.
- Vaccination hesitancy was also observed among persons with dementia.

# References

- Alzheimer's and Related Disorder's Society of India. (2010). Dementia India Report <http://ardsi.org/downloads/main%20report.pdf>
- Rajagopalan, J., Arshad, F., Hoskeri, R., Nair, V., Hurzuk, S., & Annam, H. et al. (2021). Experiences of people with dementia and their caregivers during the COVID-19 pandemic in India: A mixed-methods study. *Dementia*, 147130122110353. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14713012211035371>