

Institutionalization of dementia patients is associated with a cost of €150 per day

Rotterdam, the Netherlands – Costs for institutionalization of persons with dementia accumulates to €150 per day, as shown by a new Dutch study from the institute for Medical Technology Assessment, part of the Erasmus University Rotterdam, published in the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*. The study, led by first author Philip Klein, MSc, and senior author Tim Kanters, PhD, collected data during semi-structured interviews with healthcare professionals in a large healthcare organization in the Netherlands.

Tim Kanters: “The study was performed during the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions were in place during data collection, especially in long-term care facilities. We therefore could not perform a time-and-motion study to collect data which are commonly used for costing studies. Instead, we had to collect data using online interviews with healthcare professionals. Luckily, we were able to interview several caregiving professionals with a variety of care functions and working in different locations in the healthcare organization.”

In the study, the time healthcare professionals spent on patient care for persons with dementia was determined during the interviews. These time estimates were multiplied with time costs derived from the organization's financial administration and combined with non-personnel costs to arrive at an overall cost of €150 per day. Interview respondents could not identify differences in type or amount of care required by persons with dementia according to the severity of the disease.

The study provides cost data that can be used in cost-effectiveness studies for future treatment for dementia. Klein: “Disease-modifying treatments are currently emerging for Alzheimer's disease. These new treatments may postpone institutionalization of patients and improve patients' quality of life but are often associated with considerable treatment costs. This study helps to quantify the cost savings that can be achieved by postponing institutionalization, which in turn can counteract some of the high treatment costs.”

Co-authors included Valérie Wester, MSc and Simone Huygens, PhD, from the institute for Medical Technology Assessment, and Ron Handels, PhD, from Alzheimer Centre Limburg, from Maastricht University Medical Centre+.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

Full study: “Costs of Persons with Dementia Living in Nursing Homes in The Netherlands,” by Philip CG Klein, Simone Huygens, Ron Handels, Valérie Wester and Tim A Kanters. (DOI [10.3233/JAD-220416](https://doi.org/10.3233/JAD-220416)), published online in advance of the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease* Volume (89) Issue (1).

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