Study on the Social Consequences of AD (Alzheimer Disease) and its Neuroimaging Analysis

HYUNJEONG CHANG, HEEKYOUNG WOO, RICHARD KYUNG, Choice Research Group — United States considers the social impact of AD (Alzheimer Disease) as one of the major problems among health issues of the 21st century. Like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, or cancer, AD is a disease that affects a large number of elderly Americans; however, AD is unfortunately still not regarded as a chronic disease. One of the challenges we face is that despite its serious and pervasive impact on society, AD is considered by many to be merely a natural part of aging. Although a few countries have begun the process of planning for the epidemic of AD and have acknowledged the impact of AD on social relations, most countries have not recognized AD as an epidemic chronic disease because AD is a long-term condition for which there are presently no cure, and few treatments are available. Patients with mild Alzheimers will most likely encounter difficulty in social life such as communicating, planning, organizing, and following step-by-step instructions. In this paper, neuroimaging with Alzheimer’s disease is used to assess the progression of the disease and changes of the patients relations among family and social members. Individuals paths may vary substantially, but the MRI study shows that many patients go through three stages of change as the disease progresses.