



How to best meet the needs of people with dementia with severe behavioural disturbances. Toward a respectful and cost-effective model

Acronimo: **RECAGE**

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Abstract: The RECAGE project will tackle one of the most challenging problem arising during the clinical course of dementia: the so called Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD). The current state-of-the-art of the treatment of these symptoms is still unsatisfactory and there are many unmet needs in this area.

The major objective of the project will be to assess the effectiveness of an intervention, the special medical care unit for patients with BPSD (SCU-B), that, albeit already implemented in some European countries, is not widespread and has not been sufficiently studied so far, although it seems to be promising for its short-term efficacy (alleviating BPSD and improving quality of life of PwD) and possibly for its long term efficacy.

In order to achieve this goal, RECAGE will proceed in three steps:

- 1) A prospective cohort study, comparing the activity of the centres endowed with a typical SCU-B with that of the other participating centres lacking this facility; the efficacy and the cost-effectiveness of the proposed intervention will be tested in the prospective study. The expected benefits are socially appreciable: improving quality of life of persons with dementia, lessening caregivers' burden, possibly delaying institutionalisation;
- 2) A conference aiming at adapting the DCU-B model in accordance with the results of the cohort study, not only regarding its main endpoints, but also comparing the experience and the different ways of operating of the participating centres and the different socio-political context in which they act;
- 3) A plan for scaling up the intervention in the countries who take part in the study, but where SCU-Bs are absent or sporadic as Italy and Greece.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic and progressive neurodegenerative disease that is currently affecting 2.3 million people worldwide. Incidence rates of MS are significantly higher in Europe and in other regions located within the northern hemisphere. In Europe, the number of patients currently afflicted with MS is estimated to be at 700,000, with incidence rates ranging from 2.3-12.2/100,000 per year. GlobalData assessed the market value for MS treatments in 10 major markets (France, Germany, Italy, Spain, UK, US, Canada, Japan, China and India) in 2014 to be at €16.2 billion and predicts it to rise to approximately €18.82 billion by 2024. This increase is attributed to the projected sales of newly-approved drugs. The main shortcoming of current MS treatments ultimately lies in their lack of efficacy, specifically in that they are unable to prevent progressive neurodegeneration in MS patients. MS poses a significant economic burden on society as the disease affects primarily young people who are in their most economically-productive years. Aside from limited efficacies, current treatment options are also associated with severe side-effects (increased risks of infection, cancer), high costs and inconvenient administration routes (e.g. intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous). The aim of DIDO-MS is to assess the commercial viability of a newly identified small molecule as a drug in the treatment of MS.