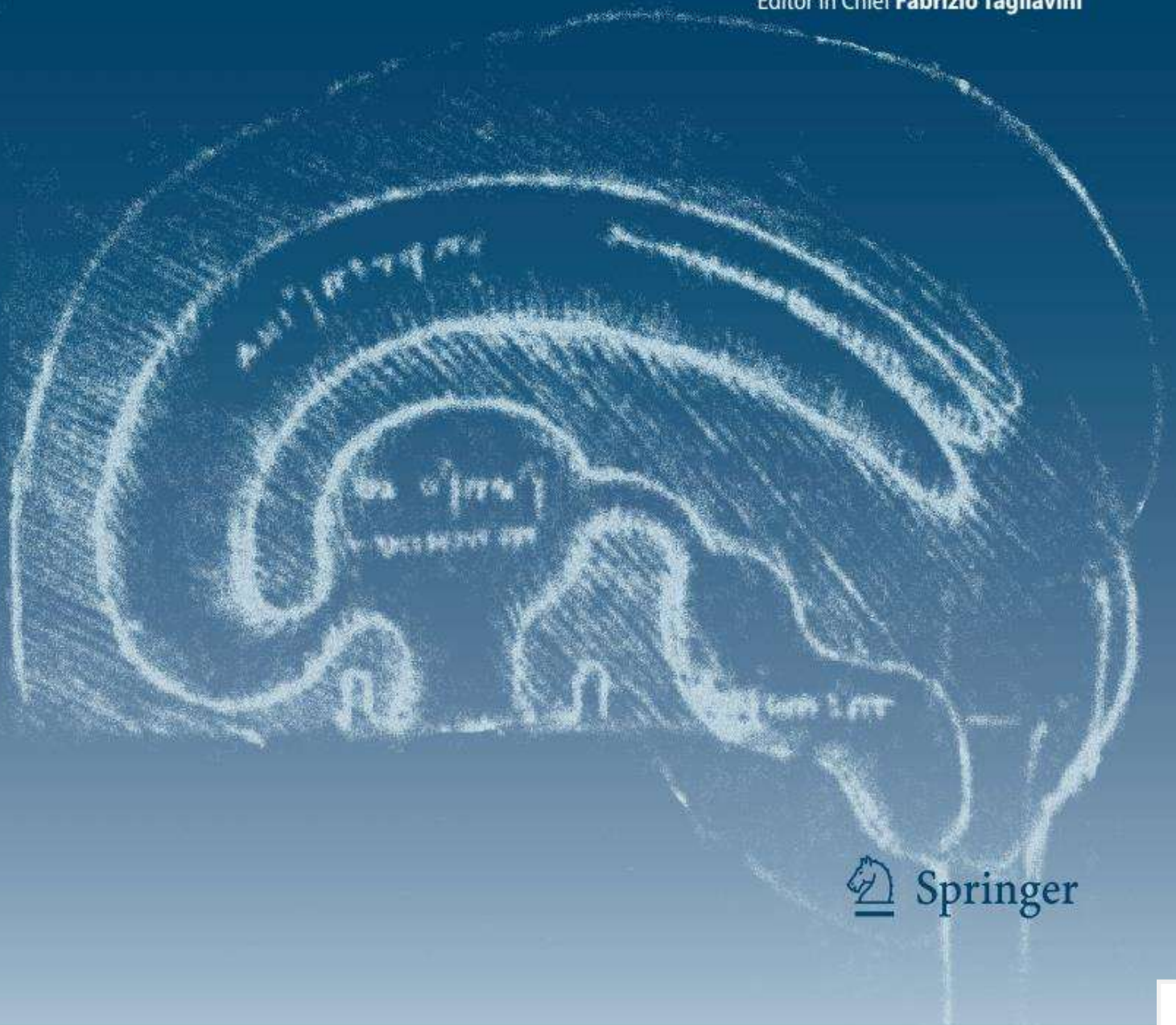


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EDITORIAL

Is E.E.G. monitoring still necessary after brain death determination?

P.M. Rossini 1839

COVID-19

Evaluation of the safety profile of COVID-19 vaccines in patients with MS, NMOSD, and MOGAD

S. Kim · H.Y. Seok 1841

Reduction of in-hospital non-COVID-19 pneumonia in stroke patients during the COVID-19 pandemic

R. Ornello · E. Colangeli · G. Ceccanti · L. Mammarella · G. Desideri · S. Sacco 1849

Carotid free-floating thrombus in COVID-19: a cerebrovascular disorder of cytokine storm-related immunothrombosis

U. Pensato · S. Forlivesi · M. Gentile · M. Romoli · L. Muccioli · F. Ambrosi · M.P. Foschini · C. Gallo · M.S. Ballestrazzi · P. Teutonico · G. Faggioli · M. Gargiulo · S. Galluzzo · F. Tagliatalata · L. Simonetti · A. Zini 1855

REVIEW ARTICLES

The Western origins of mindfulness therapy in ancient Rome

A.E. Cavanna · G. Purpura · A. Riva · R. Nacinovich · S. Seri 1861

Egyptian adaptation and validation of the Edinburgh Cognitive and Behavioral Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Screen (ECAS-EG)

R. Soliman · H.R. Rashed · R.R. Moustafa · N. Hamdi · M.S. Swelam · A. Osman · N. Fahmy 1871

Current advances in neuronal intranuclear inclusion disease

L. Bao · D. Zuo · Q. Li · H. Chen · G. Cui 1881

The effects of exercise intervention on cognition and motor function in stroke survivors: a systematic review and meta-analysis

W. Li · Z. Luo · J. Jiang · K. Li · C. Wu 1891

Worldwide prevalence of neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder (NMOSD) and neuromyelitis optica (NMO): a systematic review and meta-analysis

S. Bagherieh · A. Afshari-Safavi · S. Vaheb · M. Kiani · E.M. Ghaffary · M. Barzegar · V. Shayannejad · A. Zabeti · O. Mirmosayyeb 1905

Factors affecting cognitive functions of patients with high-grade gliomas: a systematic review

R. Tariq · N. Hussain · M.W.S. Baqai 1917

Neurofibromatosis type 1 system-based manifestations and treatments: a review

M. Saleh · A. Dib · S. Beaini · C. Saad · S. Faraj · Y. El Joueid · Y. Kotob · L. Saoudi · N. Emmanuel 1931

Meningitis-retention syndrome: a review and update of an unrecognized clinical condition

F. Pellegrino · E. Funicello · G. Pruccoli · E. Silvestro · C. Scolfaro · F. Mignone · A. Tocchet · L. Roasio · S. Garazzino 1949

Obstetric outcomes in pregnant women with subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (SSPE): a systematic review of case reports and case series

R.K. Garg · V. Paliwal · I. Rizvi · S. Pandey · R. Uniyal · S. Agrawal · R. Khanna 1959

Facial onset sensory and motor neuropathy (FOSMN syndrome): Cases series and systematic review

N. Hu · L. Zhang · X. Yang · H. Fu · L. Cui · M. Liu 1969

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

Lower semantic fluency scores and a phonemic-over-semantic advantage predict abnormal CSF P-tau₁₈₁ levels in A β + patients within the Alzheimer's disease clinical spectrum

E.N. Aiello · F. Verde · F. Solca · I. Milone · E. Giacomuzzi Grigoli · A. Dubini · A. Ratti · R. Ferrucci · E. Torresani · A. Priori · N. Ticozzi · V. Silani · B. Poletti 1979

PSEN2 and ABCA7 variants causing early-onset preclinical pathological changes in Alzheimer's disease: a case report and literature review

J. Gan · H. Zhou · C. Liu · L. Fang 1987

Han family with essential tremor caused by the P421L variant of the TENM4 gene in China

W. Chi · M. Wu · H.-I. Wang · Q.-y. Wu · Y.-p. Zhang · Y.-n. Hu · Y.-b. Zhu · X.-f. Lin · T. Chen · J.-w. Luo · X.-I. Ruan · Y.-f. Li 2003

Uric acid levels and their association with vascular dementia and Parkinson's disease dementia: a meta-analysis

Q. Li · K. Cen · Y. Cui · X. Feng · X. Hou 2017

Clinical relevance of macroglossia to disease progression in ventilation dependent patients with advanced ALS

C. Matsuda · T. Shimizu · Y. Nakayama · M. Haraguchi · C. Hakuta · R. Hidaka · A. Nishiyama · T. Numayama **2025**

Current territorial organization for access to revascularization therapies for acute ischemic stroke in the Veneto region (Italy) from 2017 to 2021

M. Cappellari · B. Bonetti · C. Baracchini · M. Corbetta · A. De Boni · A. Critelli · S. Tonello · V. Codemo · M. Marcon · E. Turinese · R. Bombardi · A.M. Basile · G. Ruzza · M. Cadaldini · E. Mampreso · S.Z. Marsala · R. Padoan · B. Marini · A. Gaudenzi · A. Tonon · M. Masa · A. Baldi · M. Turazzini · G. Zanette · A. Adami · M. Saia · P. Bovi **2033**

Correlation between pretreatment and follow-up infarct volume using CT perfusion imaging: the Bayesian versus singular value decomposition method

H. Kawano · T. Adachi · M. Saito · T. Amano · M. Gomyo · K. Yokoyama · Y. Shiokawa · T. Hirano **2041**

Deep cerebral venous system involvement in patients with cerebral sinus thrombosis. A proposal of neuroradiological score systems useful for clinical assessment

R. Calandrelli · F. Colò · A. Broccolini · G. Della Marca · G. Frisullo · C. Colosimo · F. Pilato **2049**

Occurrence of secondary insults during endovascular treatment of acute ischemic stroke and impact on outcome: the SIR-STROKE prospective observational study

A.T. Mazzeo · S. Cappio Borlino · S. Malerba · G. Catozzi · C. Filippini · V.F. Tripodi · A. Naldi · P. Cerrato · M. Bergui · L. Mascia **2061**

Adverse stroke outcomes amongst UK ethnic minorities: a multi-centre registry-based cohort study of acute stroke

D. Fluck · C.H. Fry · G. Gulli · B. Affley · J. Robin · P. Kakar · P. Sharma · T.S. Han **2071**

The prognostic value of caveolin-1 levels in ischemic stroke patients after mechanical thrombectomy

Q. Wang · H. Cao · Yan E · S. Wang · S. Chen · H. Lian · M. Wang · J. Zhou · Y. Xie · X. Zhang **2081**

Untreated hypertension and prognosis paradox in acute ischemic stroke

H. Cho · T. Kim · J. Koo · Y.-D. Kim · S. Na · Y.H. Choi · I.-U. Song · J.-W. Park **2087**

The frequency and characteristics of saccadic dysmetria in isolated cerebellar infarction

S. Kim · H.A. Kim · H. Lee **2097**

Loss of cervical sagittal alignment worsens the cervical spinal lesions in patients with Hirayama disease

K. Chen · Y. Yang · C. Sun · Y. Zhu · H. Wang · F. Lyu · J. Jiang · C. Zheng **2103**

Factors associated with migraine aura mimicking stroke in code stroke

A. Macias-Gómez · A. Suárez-Pérez · A. Rodríguez-Campello · E. Giralt-Steinhauer · A. Moreira · D. Guisado-Alonso · J. Capellades · I. Fernández-Pérez · J. Jiménez-Conde · L. Rey · J. Jiménez-Balado · J. Roquer · Á. Ois · E. Cuadrado-Godia **2113**

The comparative effectiveness of fingolimod, natalizumab, and ocrelizumab in relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis

C. Boz · S. Ozakbas · M. Terzi · R. Karabudak · S. Sevim · R. Turkoglu · A. Soysal · B.P. Balci · H. Efendi · Ö.F. Turan · N. Yüceyar · M.F. Yetkin · S.Z. Karahan · M. Demirkıran · S. Guler · K. Agan · N. Kıyılıoğlu · C. Baba · A. Tuncer · M. Köseoğlu **2121**

Neurofilament light chain marks severity of papilledema in idiopathic intracranial hypertension

T. Knoche · V. Gaus · P. Haffner · A. Kowski **2131**

A pilot study on identifying gene signatures as markers for predicting patient response to antiseizure medications

Y. Duan · L. Kang · Y. He · M. Li · T. Li · Z. Wen · L. Chen **2137**

Development of prediction models based on respiratory assessments to determine the need for non-invasive ventilation in patients with myotonic dystrophy type 1

A. Lizio · A. Pirola · C.R.A. Ferrari · L. Mauro · E. Falcieri · V.A. Sansone **2149**

Serum inflammation markers associated with altered brain white matter microstructure in people with HIV on antiretroviral treatment

A. Spagnolo-Allende · R. Schnall · M. Liu · K.C. Igwe · K.K. Laing · A.G. Chesebro · A.M. Brickman · J. Gutierrez **2159**

BRIEF COMMUNICATIONS

Restless legs syndrome in DNAJC12 deficiency

F. Porta · A. Neirrotti · M. Spada **2167**

PRRT2 benign familial infantile seizures (BFIS) with atypical evolution to encephalopathy related to status epilepticus during sleep (ESES)

A. Cossu · J.L. Santos · G. Galati · M. Nikanorova · P. Costa · Y. Mang · A. Silahtaroglu · G. Rubboli · N. Tommerup · B. Dalla Bernardina · R.S. Møller · G. Cantalupo · E. Gardella **2173**

HISTORY OF NEUROLOGY

Learning from the amyloid hypothesis: adaptability, brevity, and clarity of ideas

T. Daly 2177

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The nomenclatural misrepresentation of Parkinson's disease

J.A. Teixeira da Silva 2179

Emergence of artistic talent in logopenic variant of primary progressive aphasia: a case report

V. Papadopoulou · E. Chatzidimitriou · E. Konstantinopoulou · D. Parisis · P. Ioannidis 2181

The first MS attack after methanol toxicity in a young man: a case report

Z. Ebadi · E. Asadollahzade · F. Ghadiri · A. Naser Moghadasi 2185

Late transience and persistence of contrast-induced encephalopathy: a case report and a literature update

P. Antenucci · A. Antonioni · C. Calanca · C. Perin · M. Pugliatti 2187

A case of autoimmune glial fibrillary acidic protein astrocytopathy presenting with encephalomyelitis and severe peripheral neuropathy

W. Yuan · W. Lv · Z. Zhang 2195

Novel de novo DNMT1 gene mutation associated with hereditary sensory and autonomic neuropathy 1E (HSAN1E)

D. Parisis · K. Christodoulou · K.A. Kleopa 2199

Diagnostic and treatment challenges of 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-coenzyme A reductase myopathy: the possible role of muscle ultrasound

M. Cheli · A. Dinoto · A. Sartori · A. Bratina · P. Manganotti 2203

Reversible subacute hair loss induced by levetiracetam

P. Missori · A. Currà 2207

Neuro-ophthalmological manifestations in a case of Garcin syndrome secondary to head and neck squamous cell carcinoma

A. Taga · J.C. Gudenkauf · I. Cheong · K. Fomchenko · K.E. Green 2209

Cerebral nocardiosis mimicking disseminated tumor lesions in a patient with recurrent glioblastoma

M. Lazzari · E. Pronello · A. Covelli · R. Schizzi · L. Ruiz 2213

NEURO-IMAGES

Brainstem and upper cervical cord involvement in a patient with posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome: Neuro-images

B. Ghaderi Yazdi · J. Hadei · N. Malekian 2217

Focal platysma myokymia as the presenting symptom of cervical radiculopathy

H. Bilić · I. Adamec 2221

Imaging of ring-shaped lateral ventricular nodules (RSLVNs)

N. Romano · M. Fiannacca · A. Castaldi 2223

CORRECTIONS

Correction to: The effects of exercise intervention on cognition and motor function in stroke survivors: a systematic review and meta-analysis

W. Li · Z. Luo · J. Jiang · K. Li · C. Wu 2227

Correction to: Evaluation of an upper limb robotic rehabilitation program on motor functions, quality of life, cognition, and emotional status in patients with stroke: a randomized controlled study

S. Taravati · K. Capaci · H. Uzumcugil · G. Tanigor · A. Uzdu · F.A. Calis · Y. Kirazli 2229

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Uric acid levels and their association with vascular dementia and Parkinson's disease dementia: a meta-analysis

Qian Li¹ · Kaiwen Cen¹ · Ying Cui¹ · Xu Feng¹ · Xiaowen Hou¹

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Abstract

Objectives To explore the association between uric acid (UA) levels and vascular dementia (VaD) and Parkinson's disease dementia (PDD), a meta-analysis was conducted.

Methods The relevant studies were identified by searching PubMed, Embase, Web of Science, and Cochrane Collaboration Database up to May 2022. Pooled analysis, sensitivity analysis, and publication bias examination were all conducted. All analyses were performed by using STATA 16.

Results Twelve studies with a total of 2097 subjects were included. The pooled analysis showed that UA levels were not associated with VaD (WMD = -10.99 $\mu\text{mol/L}$, 95% CI (-48.05, 26.07), $P=0.561$) but were associated with PDD (WMD = -25.22 $\mu\text{mol/L}$, 95% CI (-43.47, -6.97), $P=0.007$). The statistical stability and reliability were evaluated using sensitivity analysis and publication bias outcomes.

Conclusion UA levels are associated with PDD but not with VaD. This study will help to strengthen our knowledge of the pathophysiologies of VaD and PDD, and promote the development of prevention and treatment strategies.

Keywords Uric acid levels · Vascular dementia · Parkinson's disease dementia · Meta-analysis

Introduction

Dementia is characterized as a syndrome rather than a particular disease that can seriously affect an individual's work and life [1]. Because of its high prevalence, dementia has become a serious public health issue around the world [2]. Vascular dementia (VaD) and Parkinson's disease dementia (PDD) are both common types of dementia [3]. For a long time, factors related to VaD and PDD have attracted worldwide attention.

Previous studies have reported that dementia is influenced by many factors, including age, gender, educational level, obesity, and disease history [4–6]. Some researchers have demonstrated that neuronal injury can be caused by oxidative damage which might affect the pathophysiology of dementia [7–9]. Our previous study reported that low

antioxidant capacity might be related to VaD, and treatment with antioxidants might mitigate cognitive impairment [10]. Similar results were also obtained in PDD [11].

As the most abundant endogenous antioxidant in blood, uric acid (UA) has been considered to exert neuroprotective effects by removing ROS and nitrite [12, 13]. However, studies have shown that high levels of UA can promote inflammation and oxidation in special environments and may cause neuronal injury [14, 15]. Many researchers have paid close attention to whether UA levels are associated with VaD and PDD, and several studies have been conducted. Nevertheless, no consistent conclusion has been reached on whether UA levels are related to VaD or PDD. Therefore, a meta-analysis was conducted in the study to investigate the association.

Methods

The study was performed following Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines.

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Search strategy

The PubMed, Embase, Web of Science, and Cochrane Collaboration Database were searched for all relevant citations up to May 2022. The following terms were used for searching: (uric acid OR UA OR urate OR hyperuricemia) AND (vascular dementia OR VaD OR Parkinson’s disease dementia OR PDD OR dementia). No language or other restrictions were applied

to the search strategy. References of the retrieved studies were also screened to identify available articles.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Criteria for study inclusion were based on the following: (1) the association between UA levels and VaD and/or PDD was

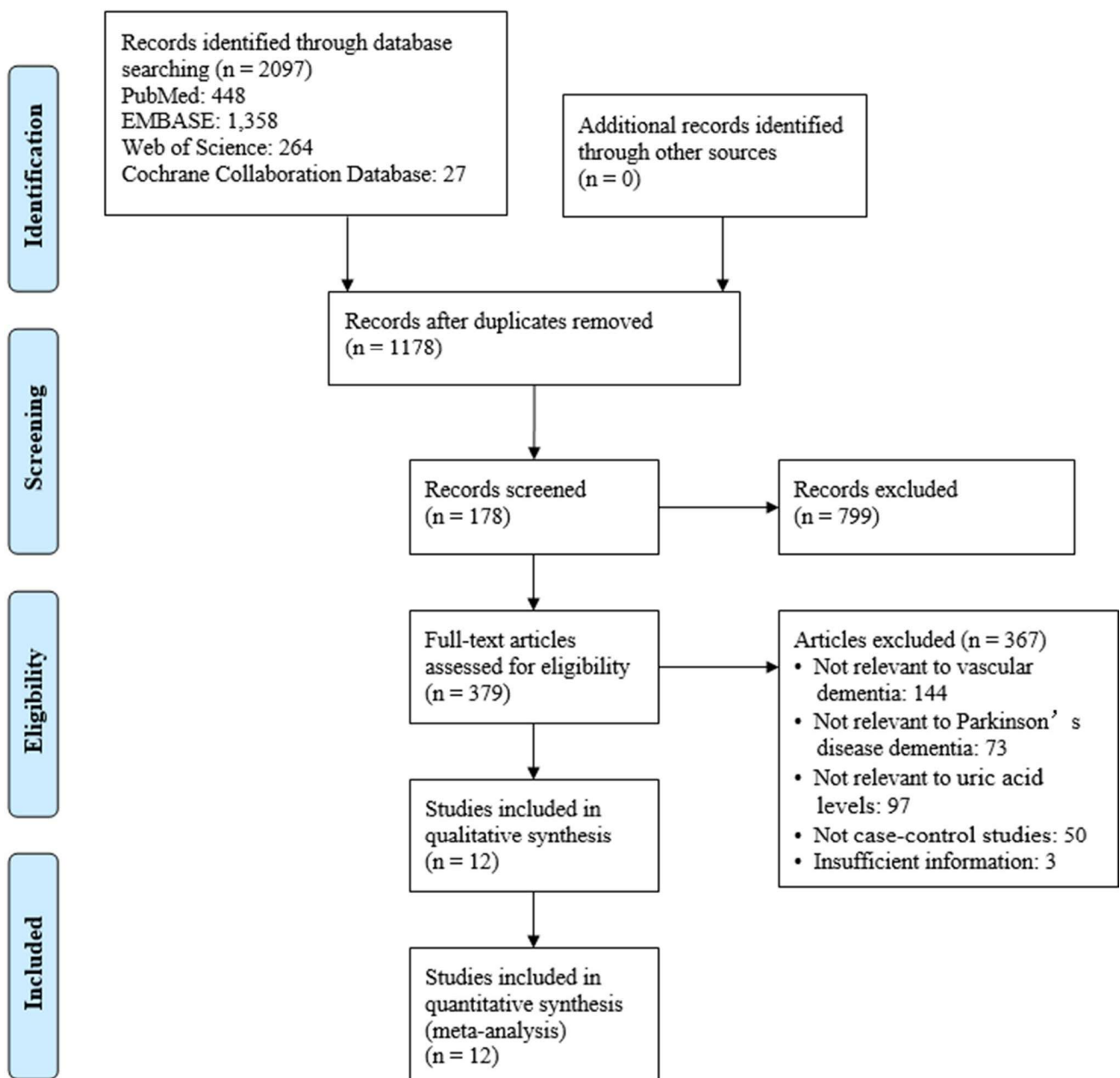


Fig. 1 Flow diagram of study selection

Table 1 Characteristics of the included studies

First author, published year	Country	Continent	Mean age (yr)	Male percentage (%)	Sample		Uric acid (μmol/L)		Dementia types	NOS score
					Case	Control	Case	Control		
Serdarevic N, 2020 [21]	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Europe	71.7	100.0	100	100	321.3 ± 85.8	263.0 ± 62.5	VaD	7
Liu HX, 2020 [22]	China	Asia	65.6	70.5	111	79	360.0 ± 110.0	348.0 ± 86.0	VaD	6
Tuven B, 2017 [23]	Turkey	Europe	NA	NA	16	1119	376.0 ± 181.5	343.9 ± 108.3	VaD	6
			NA	NA	15	1119	277.3 ± 111.9	343.9 ± 108.3	PDD	
Xu Y, 2016 [24]	China	Asia	67.7	53.8	127	81	300.1 ± 110.5	336.6 ± 103.6	VaD	8
Hatanaka H, 2015 [25]	Japan	Asia	82.8	47.5	27	53	323.1 ± 74.4	338.6 ± 100.0	VaD	7
Cervellati C, 2014 [26]	Italy	Europe	78.6	38.2	54	48	363.2 ± 94.8	317.0 ± 118.5	VaD	7
González-Aramburu I, 2014 [27]	Spain	Europe	64.2	57.0	72	271	299.9 ± 101.2	318.3 ± 83.3	PDD	8
Maetzler W, 2011 [28]	Germany	Europe	62.7	61.5	20	76	285.6 ± 83.3	303.5 ± 54.5	PDD	7
Polidori MC, 2004 [29]	Italy	Europe	76.4	35.9	23	55	193.6 ± 46.6	312.9 ± 82.3	VaD	8
Foy CJ, 1999 [30]	UK	Europe	75.9	53.7	37	58	266.7 ± 92.4 [†]	300.0 ± 106.4 [†]	VaD	6
			74.5	55.3	18	58	268.9 ± 80.4 [†]	300.0 ± 106.4 [†]	PDD	
Tohgi H, 1993 [31]	Japan	Asia	68.5	NA	15	14	283.0 ± 91.0	303.0 ± 70.0	VaD	7
Maesaka JK, 1993 [32]	America	North America	77.9	NA	6	11	330.0 ± 20.0	350.0 ± 30.0	VaD	7

NA, not available; NOS, Newcastle-Ottawa quality assessment scale; VaD, vascular dementia; PDD, Parkinson's disease dementia

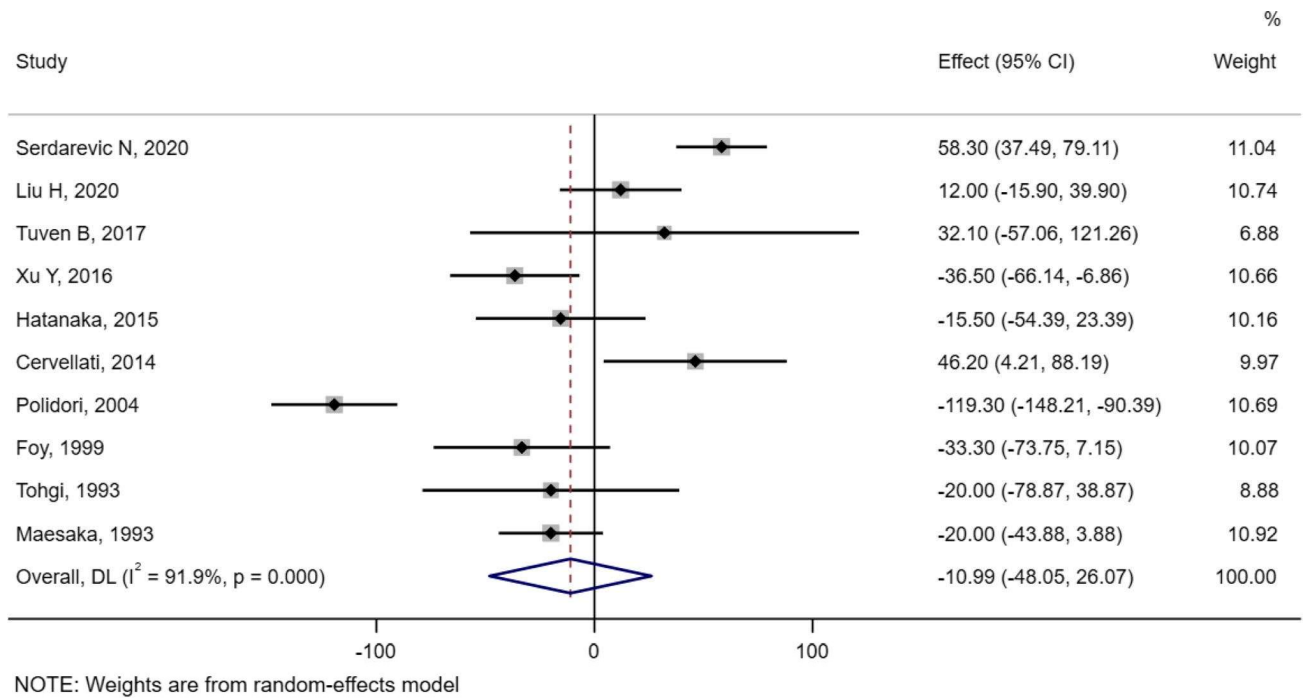
[†]Mean ± standard deviation estimated by median (interquartile range)

involved; (2) it should be a case-control study; (3) subjects in the case group were VaD or PDD patients, while the control group was not; and (4) the study should provide mean and standard deviation (SD) values of UA for each group. When only the median and interquartile ranges were provided, the mean and SD were estimated according to the formula [16].

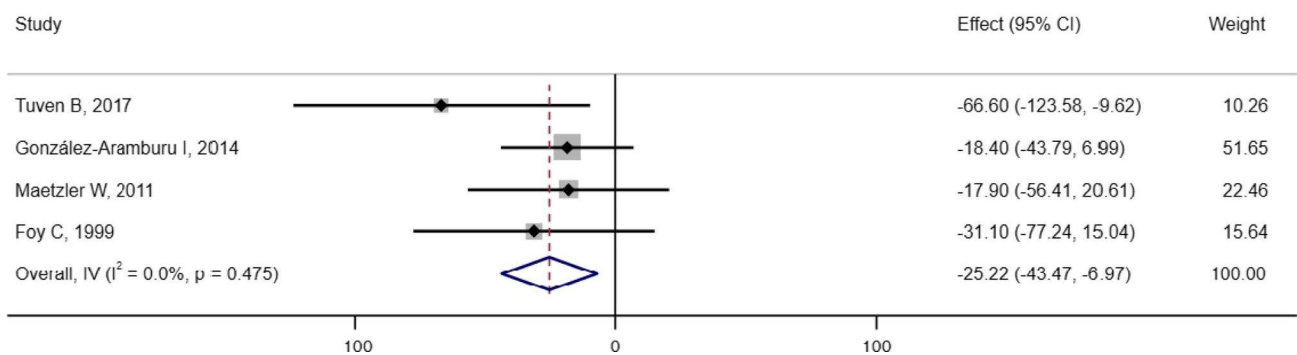
Studies were excluded according to the following criteria: (1) reviews, case reports or letters; (2) animal or cell studies; and (3) repeated publication of data from the same population.

Data extraction

All data were recorded for further evaluation separately by two reviewers, and any discrepancy was resolved by the third investigator. The following baseline data were collected: first author’s name, year of publication, country, mean age, male percentage, number of patients in the case and control groups, and mean and SD values of UA in each group. Corresponding author was contacted for studies with inadequate information.



(a) Vascular dementia



(b) Parkinson’s disease dementia

Fig. 2 Forest plot of weighted mean difference of vascular dementia and Parkinson’s disease dementia associated with uric acid levels