“The Eye as a Window of the Brain”
Identifying the mechanisms involved in cognitive impairment and dementia in people with type 2 Diabetes

Name: Recognised
Duration: 2020-2023
Funded by: Horizon 2020

Background & Objectives
Type 2 Diabetes (T2D) is a risk factor for cognitive impairment and dementia. People living with T2D have a two-fold higher risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease compared to the general population.

Cognitive impairment has the added burden of hindering a person’s ability to manage their diabetes which potentially leads to diabetes complications.

Currently there exists no reliable test to identify people with T2D who are at risk of developing dementia.

Recognised examines the biological mechanisms that cause structural and functional alterations in the retina in people with T2D to determine whether these same pathways play a role in the events observed in the brain during the development of cognitive impairment and dementia and to use the retina as a tool to identify people with T2D at risk of developing cognitive impairment or dementia.

IDF Europe’s Role
✓ Represent the perspective of people living with diabetes across all aspects of the project
✓ Co-lead the communication and dissemination work alongside Alzheimer Europe
✓ Provide input into the exploitation and dissemination plan

Deliverables
Basic Research: molecular mechanisms leading to neurovascular pathology in people with Alzheimer and diabetic retinopathy

Clinical research: prospective multicentric cross-sectional and cohort clinical study; neuropsychological and quality of life evaluation; identification of biomarkers

Expected Impact
- Increase awareness of cognitive impairment as new comorbidity of type 2 diabetes
- Provide evidence to develop programmes designed to reduce the rate of progression from mild cognitive impairment to dementia
- Gain knowledge of the mechanisms of dementia
- Improve early diagnosis of dementia for better planning of future diabetes management and the deterioration of cognitive functions

For more information and a complete list of project partners, please visit the project website https://www.recognised.eu/or contact us: idfeurope@idf-europe.org.

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