

# Caring for People with Dementia

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# Caring for People with Dementia

- ◆ How big is the problem?
- ◆ Where are we now in Hong Kong?
- ◆ Domains in Dementia care
- ◆ What are our strengths and barriers?
- ◆ Ethical aspects
- ◆ What is the way forward?

# How big is the problem ?

- ◆ 30 years ago .....



# How big is the problem ?

◆ 30 years ago .....

Chiu et al, 1998 –

◆ 6% for people aged 70 or above have dementia

Lam et al, 2008 –

◆ 8.9% mild dementia for people aged 70 or above

About 70% of cases are AD in these 2 studies

# Global prevalence of dementia

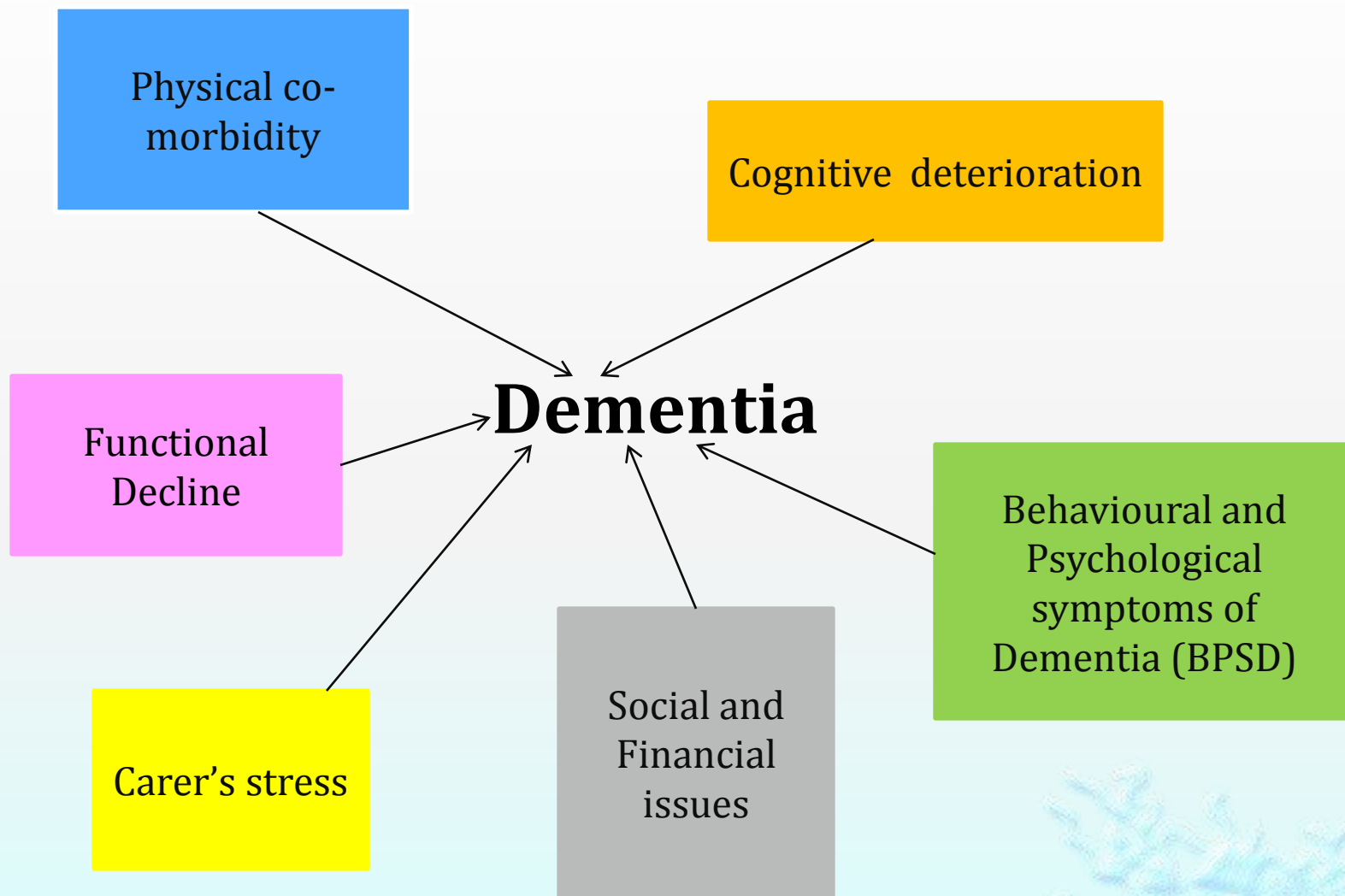
ADI, 2009; Prince et al, 2013

- ❖ 4.7% globally for people aged 60 or over
- ❖ 35.6 million people with dementia in 2010, no. will double every 20 years
- ❖ 135 million in 2050 (ADI, 2014)

# Where are we now in dementia care ?

- ◆ Around 15 years ago, HK is a leader in Asia
- ◆ Now .....





# BPSD

- ◆ Occurs in over 90% of patients with dementia (IPA complete Guide to BPSD)
- ◆ e.g. hallucinations, delusions, mood problems, irritability, agitation
- ◆ Associated with carer stress, ↓quality of life, premature institutionalization, ↑cost of care
- ◆ Management by psychosocial interventions and drugs
- ◆ Multidisciplinary approach in management



# What are our strengths?

- ◆ High standard of medical and professional staff
- ◆ Strong NGOs
- ◆ Highly skilled and Innovative Multidisciplinary staff
- ◆ Domestic helpers/maids

# Barriers to Dementia Care in Hong Kong

- ◆ No comprehensive policy on dementia care
- ◆ Inadequate co-ordination among sectors
- ◆ Low public awareness
- ◆ Inadequate community services
- ◆ Space & manpower constraints in residential services and hospitals => ↑BPSD
- ◆ GP training inadequate

# Barriers to Dementia Care

- ◆ Specialist Care
  - ◆ Long waiting time for new referrals
  - ◆ Long waiting time for brain imaging
  - ◆ Low priority by Government, HA and cluster
  - ◆ Limited financial and manpower resources
  - ◆ Liaison and Working with Primary Care

# Some Ethical Perspectives of Dementia care

- ◆ Delay in Dementia services
- ◆ Environment in HK may ↑BPSD and more difficult to provide care e.g. small space
- ◆ Physical restraint partly as result of environment and staff constraints, and lack of training
- ◆ Management of BPSD – black box warning of antipsychotics but lack of good environment and manpower

# Proposed Dementia Strategy Framework



# The Way Forward

- ◆ Comprehensive policy on Dementia Care
- ◆ Address Barriers to Dementia Care
- ◆ Adequate funding and resources