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Medicine which changes dementia damage process being developed

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Aqra bil- Malti

Dementia is considered by doctors as a very complicated condition from which over 7,000 people suffer in Malta. With dementia, certain areas in the brain that control functions one needs on a daily basis, start to die slowly.

In light of an international conference to be held in Malta in the coming days, TVMnews met Professor Charles Scerri at the University of Malta, who explained the developments taking place in a new medicine for dementia.

Professor Charles Scerri said that since dementia affects everyone differently, it is more difficult for doctors to find one good treatment for everyone.

This medicine is being tried for the first time, it changes the process by which the damage is caused. Unfortunately this medicine is associated with a number of side effects as well, but the important thing is that this has been a very significant progress, considering that in the last 20, 30 years, there has been a lot of deficiency in development when it comes to medical treatment.

In light of a conference to be held in the coming days by the Malta Dementia Society, Professor Scerri explained its two aims – to celebrate the 20th year since the establishment of the Malta Dementia Society, and to further increase awareness on the condition, but from an international dimension.

He explained that for every person with dementia there are four who are close to it, adding that presently there are 7,800 people with dementia in Malta.

This number will increase in the future. Maltese society is a society that is living longer. The biggest risk is age. The risk of having dementia will grow with the person, so because we are living more, the numbers will increase in the future, and out of these 7,800 we currently have, we are thinking of exceeding 14,000 by the year 2050. It will almost double.

Professor Scerri concluded that in his opinion, knowledge about the condition has improved, and although there are still various factors which are affecting medicine badly, such as side effects, it is a solid foundation which can be further improved in the future.