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### **Alzheimer's disease in the context of social work from the perspective of family caregivers**

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**Key words:** Alzheimer's disease, social work, family caregivers

#### ***Background***

In the context of rising quality of life and improving living conditions, as well as improving health care, people are now living to a higher age than in the past.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia in European countries. As a result of the development of the disease, individuals are often dependent on the help and care of other people, in most cases family members. This care interferes with the functioning of the family, so monitoring the needs and assistance for family members is essential.

#### ***Objective***

The objectives this study are to determine how family members perceive care for persons with Alzheimer disease, how care interferes with family functioning, and the extent to which they use supportive social services.

### ***Methods***

We used the case report method to obtain the data. The research sample consisted of five families in which family members as non-professional caregivers provided care for a client diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in the home environment.

### ***Results***

On the basis of the case studies we can say that persons who provide care for a client with Alzheimer's disease in the home environment experience this care as stressful, burdensome, physically demanding. The most frequent source of obtaining information about social, medical and other assistance methods was mentioned by the respondents as a doctor. Respondents do not use any supportive social services and assistance because they do not know about them.

### ***Conclusion***

The care of clients with Alzheimer's disease is very challenging and therefore requires a holistic multidisciplinary approach.