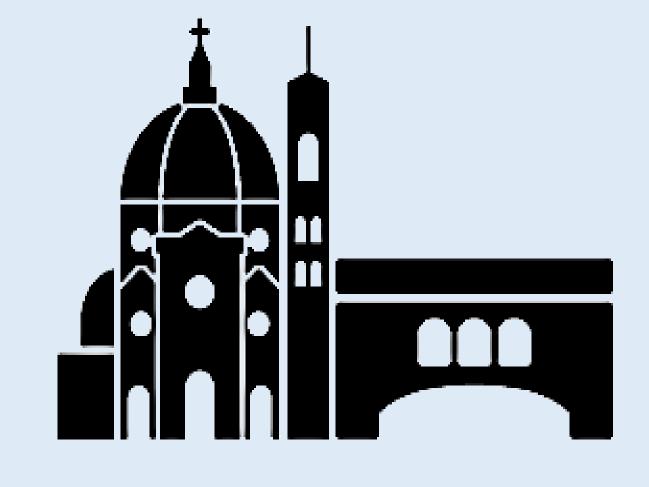
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Prevalence of language impairment and its association with age at menopause in Colombian postmenopausal women

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INTRODUCTION

Language is a complex function involving biological, cognitive and social aspects. Language impairment in adults is a decline in the ability to understand or express oral or written information, is a communication difficulty and is sometimes a symptom of disease or is related to normal aging.

RESULTS

A total of 601 women were evaluated Age: 60.6 ± 7.3 years Menopause age: 49.8 ± 3.1 years Last menstruation ≤ 48 years: 127 (21.1%) Last menstruation 49 - 51 years: 313 (52.1%) Last menstruation ≥ 52 years: 161 (26.8%) The 53.9\% lived with a sexual partner Number of people in the house: 4.2 ± 2.0 The average years at menopause: 10.7 ± 7.5

OBJECTIVE

To estimate the association between menopausal age and language impairment in a group of postmenopausal women

METHODS

Mean language proficiency score 7.4 ± 1.4 Language impairment in 287 (47.7%) women

Cross-sectional study conducted in voluntary postmenopausal women, aged 50-75 years who fulfilled their daily activities (work or domestic) and resided in two Colombian cities, one urban (Caribbean region) and one rural (Amazon region). Those previously diagnosed with a physical, mental or cognitive limitation, as well as those receiving neuropharmaceuticals, were excluded. They were invited to fill out a form that included the Mini-Mental State **Examination (MMSE).** Nine of the items of this tool assess aspects related to language: repeating sentences, making written and verbal order, writing sentences, naming objects and copying a geometric drawing. The score is between 0-9 and fewer points are worse evaluation. For this study, below-mean score was considered language impairment. Logistic regression was performed. Dependent variable: language impairment. Independent variable: the age ranges of the last menopause [< 48, 49 - 51 and > 52 years] Study with endorsement of the ethics committee.

The age ranges (y)	Language impairment	Ρ
of the last menopause	(adjusted logistic regression)* OR [95%CI]	
49 - 51		
<u>< 48</u>	2.01 [95%CI: 1.29-3.13]	0.001
<u>> 52</u>	0.82 [95%CI: 0.56-1.27]	0.42

(*) chronological age and number of housing companions

CONCLUSIONS

In a group of Colombian women, having menopause at age 48 or earlier was associated with a greater chance of language impairment, which was not observed when menopause occurred at age 52 or older.

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