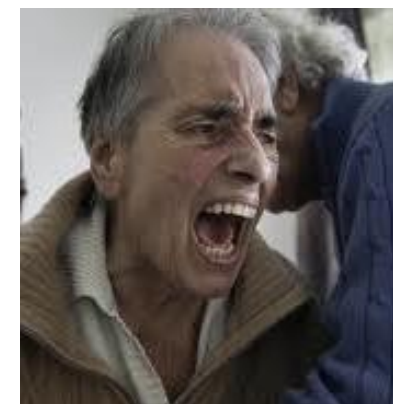


Characteristics of nursing home residents with extreme vocally disruptive behavior: the WAALBED III Study

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Background

Vocally disruptive behavior (VDB) is a common feature in nursing home residents with dementia. Some have extreme VDB. Hardly any literature about the characteristics of these residents is available.

Objectives

- (1) To explore the prevalence and characteristics of nursing home residents with extreme vocally disruptive behavior;
- (2) To study the differences of residents with extreme vocally disruptive behavior as compared to those without.

Design & Methods

Data of four studies in nursing home residents with dementia was combined into one dataset:

- WAALBED-I study (cross-sectional study, n=1332)¹
- WAALBED-II study (longitudinal; n=290)²
- Dementia Care Mapping study (randomized controlled trial; n=318)³
- GRIP on challenging behavior (randomized controlled trial; n= 659)⁴

Inclusion criteria

- Meeting the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders fourth edition criteria for dementia
- No terminal illness (life expectancy < 4 weeks) at the time of inclusion
- Residing in the nursing home for at least four weeks

Definition

Extreme VDB: residents with a score of 6 (several times a day) or 7 (several times per hour) on the Cohen-Mansfield Agitation Inventory (CMAI) items 'screaming' and/or 'making strange noises'

Without VDB: a CMAI score of 1 (never) on both items.

Statistics

Differences between patients with extreme VDB and those without were analysed by using independent two samples t-tests and Chi square tests.

References

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Results

Characteristics of the residents enrolled in the study

	Extreme VDB	Without VDB	P-value	
Number of residents n= 1683	239	1444		
Age	Mean (SD) Range	81.48 (8.45) 55-100	82.93 (7.44) 36-102	0.013
Sex (% female)		78.7	76.6	0.482
Marital status (n=1407)				0.082
Married/civil partnership/ unmarried but living together/living together(%)		20.3	22.3	
Widow/widower (%)		62.0	65.8	
Divorced/unmarried (%)		17.7	11.9	
Duration of institutionalization (months) (n=1674)	Mean (SD) Range	34.22(28.72) 0.00-175.24	26.55 (26.16) 0.00-219.27	0.000
Global Deterioration Scale (GDS) (n=1681)				0.000
GDS 4 (%)		1.7	4.6	
GDS 5 (%)		10.9	22.6	
GDS 6 (%)		47.3	50.5	
GDS 7 (%)		40.2	22.3	
Psychotropic drug use (%) (n=1631)		73.7	60.2	0.000
Antipsychotic drugs (%)		49.1	31.0	0.000
Antidepressant drugs (%)		33.6	26.1	0.017
Hypnotics (%)		13.7	14.2	0.838
Anxiolytic drugs (%)		24.6	13.1	0.000
Antiepileptic drugs (%)		11.6	5.4	0.000
Cholinesterase inhibitors (%)		3.9	2.6	0.261

Conclusion

Nursing home residents with dementia with extreme VDB have a lower mean age, a different severity of dementia (more in GDS 7 and less in GDS 4 and 5) and a longer duration of stay compared to residents without VDB. Also the prevalence of psychotropic drug use was higher in the extreme VDB group, with higher prescription rates of antipsychotic drugs, antidepressant drugs, anxiolytic drugs and antiepileptic drugs.

