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Assessment/Management of Dementia

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Dementia [↗](#)

http://consultgerim.org/resources/geriatric_topics/ [↗](#)

Under "Evidence-Based Geriatric Protocols and Topics", select "Dementia"

Excellent information and resources. Includes access to a wide variety of resources including assessment and screening tools, evidence-based practice, and topic resources.

Dementias: Hope Through Research

http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/alzheimersdisease/detail_alzheimersdisease.htm#What_Is_Dementia [↗](#)

NIH sponsored website that provides a good overview of dementia. Includes general information about dementia including different kinds of dementia, causes, risk factors, diagnosis, treatment, prevention and research.

Stages of Dementia/Alzheimer's Disease

<http://www.ec-online.net/Knowledge/articles/alzstages.html> [↗](#)

Provides a good overview of the stages of dementia.

Dementia: Info and Advice for Caregiver

<http://familydoctor.org/online/famdocen/home/common/brain/disorders/585.html> [↗](#)

Good information for family education. Includes information on what dementia is, symptoms, treatment, causes of and treatment for agitation, hallucinations, sleep, and wandering. Also includes many links to other resource sites.

Myth Busting: Dementia and Wandering

<http://www.rgpc.ca/best/BPC - Blogs/BP Blogger-Wandering Nov-Dec 2007.pdf> [↗](#)

Features facts and fiction about wandering in a colorful, easy-to-read format.

ASSESSMENT

Dementia and Delirium Assessment Tools

<http://www.healthcare.uiowa.edu/igec/tools/categoryMenu.asp?categoryID=1> [↗](#)

Offers access to the Clock Drawing Test, Confusion Assessment Method, Short Portable Mental Status Questionnaire, and Time and Change Test.

The Mini Cognitive Exam

http://www.nicheprogram.org/niche_encyclopedia-assessment-mini_cog [↗](#)

The Mini-Cog is a tool that can be used to detect dementia quickly and easily in various settings, either during routine visits or hospitalization. This site features information about the Mini-Cog and how to administer it. Also features links to other pages related to the Mini-Cog, Alzheimer's screening tests, geriatric care and dementia.

SLUMS (St. Louis University Mental Status Exam)

http://medschool.slu.edu/agingsuccessfully/pdfsurveys/slumsexam_05.pdf [↗](#)

Developed to detect for mild cognitive impairment.

Make a Gift

How To Try This: The Mini-Cog . *American Journal of Nursing*, 107(12), 62-71) Features more in-depth information about the mini-cog including its uses, administration, interpretation of results, cultural considerations, and communication of results.

Mini Cognitive Instrument: <http://consultgerirn.org/uploads/File/trythis/issue03.pdf>

Scroll down to the "General Assessment Series" box. In the upper righthand corner, click on "Click to view". Scroll down to issue 3.

This document includes information on Mini-Cog administration and scoring. In addition to the assessment tool, this document also includes information on the why the tool is important, target population, validity and reliability, and strengths and limitations.

Recognition of Dementia in Hospitalized Older Adults

<http://consultgerirn.org/uploads/File/trythis/communication.pdf>

Scroll down to the "Dementia Series" box. In the upper right hand corner, click on "Click to view". Scroll down to "D5: Recognition of Dementia in Hospitalized Older Adults".

Features assessment tool and includes information on why it is important, target population, best practices, and what to do when there is no prior diagnosis of dementia is reported.

Video: http://consultgerirn.org/resources/media/?vid_id=4361882#player_container

Demonstrates the use of the four recommended approaches to recognizing dementia in hospitalized older adults.

Article: <http://nursing.ceconnection.com/nu/ovidfiles/00000446-200801000-00028.pdf>

(Maslow, K., & Mezey, M. (2008). How To Try This: Recognition of Dementia in Hospitalized Older Adults. *American Journal of Nursing*, 108(1), 40-49.)

Features overview of dementia in hospitalized patients, approaches to recognizing dementia, administering the "Try This" approach, scoring and interpreting results, challenges, and communicating the findings.

Assessing Pain in Persons with Dementia

Assessment Tool: http://consultgerirn.org/resources/?tt_request=assessingPain.pdf

Scroll down to the "Dementia Series" box. In the upper righthand corner, click on "Click to view". Scroll down to "D2: Assessing Pain in Persons with Dementia".

Features assessment tool for pain in advanced dementia (PAINAD) and includes information on why it is important, target population, best tools, validity and reliability, strengths and limitations, and barriers to pain management in older adults with dementia.

Article: <http://nursing.ceconnection.com/nu/ovidfiles/00000446-200807000-00030.pdf>

(Horgas, A., & Miller, L. (2008). Pain Assessment in People with Dementia. *American Journal of Nursing*, 109(7), 62-70.)

Describes the pain assessment in advanced dementia (PAINAD) scale, administering the PAINAD scale, scoring and interpreting the results, challenges of using the PAINAD and communicating the results.

Video: http://consultgerirn.org/resources/media/?vid_id=4669429#player_container

Video features information on pain assessment in older adults.

Assessment of Cognitive Impairment: Executive Function

Assessment Tool: http://consultgerirn.org/uploads/File/trythis/issue_d3.pdf

Scroll down to the "Dementia Series" box. In the upper righthand corner, click on "Click to view". Scroll down to "D3: Brief Evaluation of Executive Dysfunction".

This resource offers three screening tests of executive function including cognitive flexibility, concept formation, and self-monitoring. The tests can be administered in both hospital and ambulatory care settings.

Article: <http://nursing.ceconnection.com/nu/ovidfiles/00000446-200812000-00030.pdf>

Kennedy, G. J., & Smyth, C. A. (2008). Screening Older Adults for Executive Dysfunction. *American Journal of Nursing*, 108(12), 62-71.)

INTRANET

Features information on the importance of screening for executive dysfunction, administering brief tests of executive dysfunction, scoring and interpretation, communicating the results and challenges.

Video: http://consultgerirn.org/resources/media/?vid_id=5004177#player_container

Decision Making in Older Adults with Dementia

Assessment Tool: http://consultgerirn.org/uploads/File/trythis/issue_d9.pdf

Scroll down to the "Dementia Series" box. In the upper righthand corner, click on "Click to view". Scroll down to "D9: Decision Making in Older Adults with Dementia".

Document provides guidelines for evaluating decision making capacity. Includes information on why it is important, best practices, target population, and guiding concepts.

Detecting Depression in Older Adults with Dementia

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2891505/>

Clinical practice guideline developed through the University of Iowa Gerontological Nursing Interventions Research Center.

NURSING CARE

Eating and Feeding Issues in Older Adults with Dementia

Assessment Tool: http://consultgerirn.org/resources/?tt_request=dementia.pdf

Part I Assessment:

Scroll down to the "Dementia Series" box. In the upper righthand corner, click on "Click to view". Scroll down to "D11.1: Eating and Feeding Issues in Older Adults with Dementia. Part I: Assessment".

Includes the Edinburgh Feeding Evaluation in Dementia Questionnaire (EdFED-Q), which helps to determine how much assistance a person with dementia needs at a meal. Also includes other assessment guidelines.

Article: <http://nursing.ceconnection.com/nu/ovidfiles/00000446-200808000-00025.pdf>

(Stockdell, R., & Amella, E. J. (2008). How to Try This: The Edinburgh Feeding Evaluation in Dementia Scale: Determining how much help people with dementia need at mealtime. *American Journal of Nursing*, 108(8), 46-54.)

Includes information on the EdFED-Q including administration, scoring and interpreting results, other considerations, communicating the results, and why it is important to check for eating and eating problems in older adults.

Video: http://consultgerirn.org/resources/media/?vid_id=4902587#player_container

Part II Interventions:

Assessment Tool: http://consultgerirn.org/resources/?tt_request=dementia.pdf

Scroll down to the "Dementia Series" box. In the upper righthand corner, click on "Click to view". Scroll down to "D11.2: Eating and Feeding Issues in Older Adults with Dementia: Part II (interventions)

Provides best practices for assessment and strategies to address eating and feeding issues for older adults with dementia.

Behaviors Associated with Dementia

http://www.nursingcenter.com/Inc/pdf?AID=591295&an=00000446-200507000-00028&Journal_ID=54030&Issue_ID=591242

(Smith, M., & Buckwalter, K. (2005). Behaviors Associated with Dementia. *American Journal of Nursing*, 105(7), 40-52.)

Excellent article published in the July 2005 issue of the American Journal of Nursing. Focus of article is the assessment and management of persons with dementia exhibiting behavioral symptoms. Includes information on late-life cognitive impairment, common types of dementia, behavioral symptoms of dementia, and the language of dementia care.

The Bathing of Older Adults with Dementia

http://www.nursingcenter.com/library/JournalArticle.asp?Article_ID=637530

(Rader, J., Barrick, A., Hoeffler, B., Sloane, P. D., McKenzie, D., Talerico, K. A., & Glover, J. U. (2006). The Bathing of Older Adults with Dementia. *American Journal of Nursing*, 106(4), 40-48.)

Excellent article published in the April 2006 issue of the American Journal of Nursing. Focus of article is strategies to reduce/eliminate agitated behaviors when bathing persons who have dementia. Includes information in current bathing

practices, clinical trial, practical approaches, and recommendations and resources.

Communication Difficulties: Assessment and Interventions in Hospitalized Older Adults with Dementia

Assessment Tool: http://consultgerim.org/resources/?tt_request=issue_d7.pdf

Scroll down to the "Dementia Series" box. In the upper righthand corner, click on "Click to view". Scroll down to "D7: Communication Difficulties: Assessment and Interventions".

Features tools to assess language deficits (receptive and expressive abilities) and facilitate communication. Includes information on why this is important, best practices, and target population.

Article: http://www.nursingcenter.com/library/journalarticle.asp?article_id=775983

(Miller, C. (2008). *Communication Difficulties in Hospitalized Older Adults with Dementia: Try these techniques to make communicating with patients easier and more effective. American Journal of Nursing, 108(3), 58-66.*)

Features information on how to use the assessment tool including assessing receptive and expressive abilities, challenges, and communicating the results. [Note: this article is not free, however you may be able to access it through your library].

Video: http://consultgerim.org/resources/media/?vid_id=4610524#player_container

Best practices and guidelines for effective communication with persons with dementia when hospitalized.

Working with Families of Hospitalized Persons with Dementia

Assessment Tool: http://consultgerim.org/uploads/File/trythis/issue_d10.pdf

Scroll down to the "Dementia Series" box. In the upper righthand corner, click on "Click to view". Scroll down to "D10: Working with Families of Hospitalized Older Adults with Dementia".

Provides an information sheet that can be filled out by family members of care givers and that provides important information about the patient to their hospital care team. Also includes information on why this is important, target population and best practices.

Article: <http://nursing.ceconnection.com/nu/ovidfiles/00000446-200810000-00026.pdf;jsessionid=95A4D7974174915031AD640D04003C8D>

(Bradway, C., & Hirschman, K. B. (2008). *How to Try This: Working with Families of Hospitalized Older Adults with Dementia. American Journal of Nursing, 108(10), 52-60.*)

Provides information about working with families, using the form, scoring and interpretation, and communicating the results.

Video: http://consultgerim.org/resources/media/?vid_id=5003780#player_container

Wandering in the Hospitalized Older Adult

Assessment Tool: http://consultgerim.org/resources/?tt_request=issue_d6.pdf

Scroll down to the "Dementia Series" box. In the upper right hand corner, click on "Click to view". Scroll down to "D6: Wandering in the Hospitalized Older Adult".

Provides a multitude of information and approaches to preventing and managing wandering in hospitalized older adults. Topics include identifying risk factors for wandering, providing appropriate supervision to patients at risk, reducing environmental triggers for wandering, nursing interventions that may be helpful, and information on developing protocols for finding patients that may be lost inside or outside of the hospital.

Article: http://www.nursingcenter.com/library/journalarticle.asp?article_id=818882

(Rowe, M. (2008). *Wandering in Hospitalized Older Adults: Identifying risk is the first step in this approach to preventing wandering in patients with dementia. American Journal of Nursing, 108(10), 62-70.*)

Features information on approaches to preventing and managing wandering in, accurate assessment, supervision, rapid response, challenges, and communicating about wandering.

Video:

Video on same subject.

http://consultgerim.org/resources/media/?vid_id=5003810#player_container

Avoiding Restraints in Patients with Dementia

Assessment Tool: <http://consultgerirn.org/uploads/File/trythis/dementia.pdf> 

Scroll down to the "Dementia Series" box. In the upper right hand corner, click on "Click to view". Scroll down to "D1: Avoiding Restraints in Patients with Dementia" .

Tips are provided by the authors for assessing patient behaviors and the risks of using restraints. Useful interventions to respond to patient behaviors are also provided.

Article: http://www.nursingcenter.com/library/journalarticle.asp?article_id=775972 

(Evans, L. K., & Cotter, V. T. (2008). *Avoiding Restraints in Patients with Dementia: Understanding, prevention, and management are the keys.* *American Journal of Nursing*, 108(3), 40-49.)

Features information on approaches to avoiding restraint use, managing risk, strategies to ease and comfort patients, and reasons why restraint use in patients with dementia is a problem.

Video: http://consultgerirn.org/resources/media/?vid_id=4475795#player_container 

Dementia Care Practice Recommendations for Assisted Living Residences and Nursing Homes

http://www.alz.org_professionals_and_researchers_dementia_care_practice_recommendations.asp 

Very important resource developed by the Alzheimer's Association on evidence-based dementia care practices. Phases 1 and 2 address fundamentals of dementia care and Phase 3 addresses end-of-life care for persons with dementia. Phase 4 addresses dementia care practice recommendations for professionals working in a home setting.

Individualized Music for Elders with Dementia

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20536115> 

Clinical practice guideline developed through the University of Iowa Gerontological Nursing Interventions Research Center.

APA Practice Guidelines for the Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias

http://www.psychiatryonline.com/pracGuide/pracGuideTopic_3.aspx 

Provides evidence-based guidelines for the treatment of dementia.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners (NCCDP)

<http://www.nccdp.org> 

NCCDP was formed to promote standards of excellence in dementia and Alzheimer's education to professionals and other caregivers who provide services to dementia clients. Includes information on services, certification, membership, courses, and seminars. Also provides access to a staff education tool kit.

ALZHEIMER'S

GENERAL INFORMATION

Alzheimer's Disease: Unraveling the Mystery

<http://www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers/publication/alzheimers-disease-unraveling-mystery> 

This document explains what Alzheimer's Disease is, what happens to the brain, current areas of research, and improved support for families and caregivers.

Alzheimer's Disease and Genetics

http://www.nursingcenter.com/library/JournalArticle.asp?Article_ID=679837 

(Schutte, D. L. (2006). *Alzheimer Disease and Genetics: Anticipating the Questions.* *American Journal of Nursing*, 106(12), 40-47.)

Features a clinical overview of Alzheimer's Disease, causes, genetics, and questions, needs and guidance that are likely to arise as more information about genetics and testing is discovered.

CAREGIVER RESOURCES

Caring for a Person with Alzheimer's

<http://www.alzheimersdisease.com/index.jsp?checked=y> 

Good website for information that can be used by family members who care for persons with Alzheimer's disease. Includes general information about the disease as well and information about caring for an Alzheimer's patient and Alzheimer's caregiver support.

Caring for a Person with Alzheimer's Disease: Your Easy-to-Use Guide from the National Institute on Aging
<http://www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers/publication/caring-person-alzheimers-disease>

This document includes information on understanding Alzheimer's Disease, (AD) caring for a person with AD, caring for yourself, finding help, the medical side of AD, and coping with the late stages of AD.

The Best Friends Approach
<http://www.bestfriendsapproach.com>

Provides information on the Best Friends™ model of dementia care, additional resources about the model, and resources related to dementia Alzheimer's Disease in general.

Coach Broyles' Playbook for Alzheimer's Caregivers: A Practical Tips Guide
<http://alzheimersplaybook.com>

Created through collaboration between professionals and experienced caregivers, the playbook contains useful information to help caregivers and health care providers care for individuals with Alzheimer's. Includes information on pacing, late afternoon behavior, refusing care, using the bathroom, home safety, dressing, wandering, communication, eating and survival tips. Playbook is available for free download.

Therapeutic Activity Kits
Assessment Tool: <http://consultgerirn.org/uploads/File/trythis/theraAct.pdf>
Scroll down to the "Dementia Series" box. In the upper righthand corner, click on "Click to view". Scroll down to "D4: Therapeutic Activity Kits".

Features a list of activity kits that can be assembled and used to provide cognitive stimulation and activities for older adults with cognitive impairments.

Legal and Financial Planning for People with Alzheimer's Disease
<http://www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers/publication/legal-and-financial-planning-people-alzheimers-disease-fact-sheet>

Provides specific information about legal and financial planning for people with Alzheimer's Disease. Includes information on legal, financial, and health care planning documents; advance directives for health care for health care, financial and estate management; who can help with planning; and additional planning advice.

OTHER RESOURCES

National Institute on Aging - Alzheimer's Disease Publications
<http://newcart.niapublications.org/shopdisplayproducts.aspx?id=46&cat=Alzheimer%27s+Disease+Information>

Offers access to the full library of NIA publications on Alzheimer's Disease. Allows you to search for, order, or read documents online.

HBO Alzheimer's Project
<http://www.hbo.com/alzheimers/>

This series takes a look at the scientific research and discoveries that are being made regarding Alzheimer's, and the effect the disease has on families and patients. The site features a four-part documentary series, 15 short supplemental films, a robust website, and a nationwide community-based information and outreach campaign.

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