

Visual Impairment and Eye Care is our featured topic this month:

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Tips for Lifelong Vision

Have regular eye examinations, they are free of charge under the NHS for anyone over the age of 60.

A home visit is available free of charge for anyone unable to get to a high street optician unaided.

The eye examination checks vision and health.

The eye examination can be tailored to take into account any of the effects of dementia.

Improving visual stimulation and ocular health should be a primary concern.

Optomise



In the headlines

Dementia 'must be key priority'

Dementia must be viewed as an urgent priority after years of woeful neglect by the NHS, says the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

BBC News Online 23 January 2008

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7204545.stm>

Council to spend £70m on replacing care homes for elderly

All public sector care homes in Glasgow are to be shut across the next five years and replaced with new purpose-built facilities in a £70m-plus scheme.

The Herald 22 January 2008

http://www.theherald.co.uk/search/display.var.1982600.0.council_to_spend_70m_on_replacing_care_homes_for_elderly.php

Alzheimer's molecule is a smart speed bump on the nerve-cell transport highway

Researchers have discovered that proteins carrying chemical cargo in nerve cells react differently when exposed to the tau protein, which plays an important role in Alzheimer's disease.

Science Daily 22 January 2008

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/01/080117164046.htm>



The Dementia Services
Development Centre



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Eye care Introduction

“What’s the point? She’s confused you know”! This is what I was told by a staff nurse when I tried to deliver a pair of glasses to a lady in hospital recently. I could tell you, “what the point is”, all day long but it is the underlying misunderstanding which is really important.

Dementia, Sight, Hydration, Mobility, Nutrition, Vulnerability, Pain, etc. are not factors which live in isolation, but rather they all mix together to create the person we care for. It can be too easy to attribute everything a person does, or more importantly doesn’t do, to their headline condition and in doing so miss out on opportunities to improve real quality of life.

Our field of interest is eyesight and visual health and we would like to suggest ways in which it fits into the day-to-day care of someone living with dementia. We know that through nerve damage, dementia can affect sight, but what we are interested in is the positive effect sight can have on dementia.

Based in Northern Ireland our team of 6 optometrists carry out around 10,000 eye examinations a year of which approximately 70% are for people with some form of dementia. We provide examinations in people’s own homes, care homes, hospitals and sheltered accommodations and over the last nine years we have seen behaviours, which were induced by sight problems, being solely attributed to dementia.

An example of this is the person who when walking from lino to carpet or going from a dark to a light floor covering takes a ‘big step’ as if they are going up or down a stair. This is often seen as just a part of their condition when in fact it may be a rectifiable imbalance in their vision, which causes them to actually ‘see’ a step.

Over the age of 80, 1 in 3 people suffer from a condition called macular degeneration, making it the number one cause of blindness in the UK. A large number of people caring for someone with dementia will not have heard of macular degeneration and therefore be unaware of the associated behavioural effects; effects such as not recognising familiar faces, not being able to read simple words or getting them confused or muddled, not making eye contact, having difficulty eating unaided, hallucinating and wandering. If we were to ask anyone what these behaviours were associated with I think the most common answer given would be dementia, and once associated with dementia the assumption may well be that there is not much can be done.

These are just two of the many examples of similarities that exist between the symptoms of poor eye sight and those of dementia. Our concern is two-fold; firstly if the elderly population are not having regular eye examinations, then a significant percentage will go needlessly blind, which has an obvious detrimental effect; and secondly, if the symptoms are wrongly attributed to dementia then there will be a lost opportunity for improving quality of life, independence, mobility and safety.

Eye care has been allowed to slip down, if not off, the agenda, and for this I believe the optical profession has to take the blame. Eye care is health care. It has an immense amount to contribute in general and in particular to the care of the elderly and those living with dementia.

I hope this article fuels some debate and I would like to thank the Dementia Services Development Centre for raising the issue.

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Partner
Optomise**

Optomise have specialised in the provision of domiciliary eye care for the last 9 years, during which time they have received two national awards for their work. For advice, training or information they can be contacted on 028 91827780.

<http://www.optomise.co.uk/>

Eye care

Web Resources

RNIB

Treatments for Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)

AMD is the most common cause of poor sight among people over 60.

http://www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/publicwebsite/public_pdt.hcsp

AMD Alliance International

The AMD Alliance International strives to bring knowledge, help and hope to individuals and families around the world affected by AMD (age-related macular degeneration).

<http://www.amdalliance.org/>

Constable, Ian J.

Age-related macular degeneration and its possible prevention

Medical Journal of Australia 2004; 181 (9): 471-472

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/181_09_011104/con10552_fm.html

The Eyecare Trust

Retiring With Good Vision

Article about the effects of ageing on the eye.

http://www.eye-care.org.uk/item_view.php?item_id=57&content_id=3

Vision and dementia

Ocular effects and examination. Howard Solomons PhD, BSc, FCOptom

Online article from Optometry Today

http://www.optometry.co.uk/articles/docs/0b5c132a1f57bdda881aa091b1ac2476_Solomons051007.pdf

RNIB

Older people and eye tests : don't let age rob you of your sight

http://www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/publicwebsite/public_oldeyeyesreportp.pdf

Thomas Pocklington Trust

Dementia and serious sight loss

This publication summarises findings from a research review conducted by Professor Roy Jones and Dr Richard Trigg at the Research Institute for the Care of the Elderly, St Martin's Hospital, Bath.

http://www.pocklington-trust.org.uk/Shared_ASP_Files/UploadedFiles/7778CA97-28A8-482C-8383-3C4FF30778F2_OP11DementiaFebruary2007.pdf

Macular Disease Society

Nutrition and the eye

<http://www.maculardisease.org/core/documents/download.asp?id=347>

Pham, T.C. [et al.]

Relation of Age-Related Macular Degeneration and cognitive impairment in an older population. Gerontology 2006; 52: 353-358

<http://content.karger.com/ProdukteDB/produkte.asp?Aktion=ShowPDF&ArtikelNr=94984&Ausgabe=232146&ProduktNr=224091&filename=94984.pdf>

Forth Valley Sensory Centre

Forth Valley Sensory Centre provides a range of services for anyone with sensory impairment, their carers, families and related service providers

<http://www.falkirkonline.net/Specialist%20Services/Forth%20Valley%20Sensory%20Centre/Forth%20Valley%20Sensory%20Centre.aspx>

Eye care

Topic Reading List

Books/Reports

Domiciliary Eye Care Committee

A fundamental right to sight : a contribution to the national service frameworks for older people and long-term conditions, and independence, well-being and choice.

London: Domiciliary Eye Care Committee, 2007.

This paper has been prepared in an attempt to ensure that all those who are entitled to receive domiciliary eye care are aware of its availability and have access to it. It is intended for all those with an interest in eye health including Primary Care Trusts, commissioning groups and consortia, Local Optical Committees, Health Departments and other stakeholders involved in the planning and provision of primary ophthalmic services.

Category: Book

Ref.: C3A

AMD Alliance UK

Left to pay their own way : how people facing sight loss from wet age-related macular degeneration are let down by the NHS.

London: AMD Alliance UK, 2006.

The purpose of this report is to highlight the fact that patients with AMD are being barred from treatment unless they can afford to pay for private treatment. The report shows that major action, including the urgent expansion of existing services, is required to ensure access to the new treatments on the NHS across the UK.

Category: Report

Ref.: C3A

Thomas Pocklington Trust

Dementia and blindness.

Series Research Findings. May 2005 no.6

This project examined the information available and issues concerning people who have dementia and visual impairment. The report has reviewed the research evidence, the number of people affected by both conditions, the problems that those with both conditions may face and areas where intervention may lead to improvements in quality of life.

Available to download from:

http://www.pocklington-trust.org.uk/shared_asp_files/uploadedfiles/7D8D2B66-574C-4E9A-95F2-82490CA2D0CA_RF6dementia_website.pdf

Category: Report

Ref.: D26

ISBN 0954619986

Scotland. Scottish Executive

National care standards : care homes for people with physical and sensory impairment.

Edinburgh : Scottish Executive, 2002.

Produced by the National Care Standards Committee, which is an advisory body tasked with developing national care standards covering a range of areas for use by the new Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care. As a result of the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 there are now no legal differences between residential homes and nursing homes. They are all care homes and can be more flexible about the services they offer.

Category: Report

Ref.: I(SO/SE)

ISBN 0755903390

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/69582/0018019.pdf>

Books/Reports

Butler, Sarah J

Hearing and sight loss : a handbook for professional carers.

London: Age Concern, 2004.

The topics covered in this book include:- causes and symptoms of sensory impairment; emotional responses to sensory impairment; rehabilitation; aids and equipment; communication; quality of life; benefits and registration; legislation and guidance; training.

Category: Book

Ref.: D26

ISBN 0862423597

Lewycka, Marina

Caring for someone with a sight problem.

London: Age Concern, 2003.

There are nearly two million people in the UK with sight problems. Of these, over 80% are aged 65 or over. This book will be an invaluable resource for carers, relatives, and friends caring for someone with a sight problem. It includes specific chapters on understanding and coming to terms with sight problems, improving home life, hobbies, friends, social life, and help with practical matters.

Category: Book

Ref.: C3A

ISBN 0862423813

Gibson, Faith

Reminiscence and recall : a guide to good practice. 2nd ed.

Age Concern England, 1998.

Revised and updated this second edition explores good practice in reminiscence and offers advice on planning and running a successful reminiscence group. Includes new material on working with people with dementia, creative communication and European reminiscence developments. Other topics include using the senses to trigger reminiscence, life history work, ethnic minorities, working with those with impaired senses such as hearing and vision loss, and with learning disabilities.

Category: Book

Ref.: D12B

ISBN 0862422531

Dulux Trade

Colour & contrast : a design guide for the use of colour and contrast to improve the built environment for visually impaired people.

Slough: ICI, 2001.

A CD-Rom produced by ICI in collaboration with the Inclusive Environments Research group, University of Reading and the JMU Access Project at the RNIB about the effects of visual impairment on the perception of colour and contrast in the built environment. Some very useful pointers that have relevance for the design of built environments for people with dementia.

Category: CD-ROM

Ref.: TAPEBOX

Journal articles

Rush, Katherine, Dillon, Louise and Scharf, Simon

Visual impairment in an aged care ward.

Australasian journal on ageing, Vol. 26(2) June 2007, Page(s) 91-93

Visual impairment is common in older people, and is a risk factor for falls and hip fractures, reduced independence and quality of life.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: C3A

Rovner, Barry W. [et al.]

Dissatisfaction with performance of valued activities predicts depression in age-related macular degeneration.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry, 22(8), August 2007, Page(s) 789-793

This study aims to determine whether dissatisfaction with performance of valued activities predicts depression in patients with age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Category: Journal Article

Ref: C3A

Imrie, Fraser R. and Bailey, Clare

New treatments for age-related macular degeneration.

Age and ageing, 36(1), 8-10.

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the most common cause of visual disability and blindness in Europe and North America. There is no specific treatment for dry AMD and the same treatment is still used for wet AMD as in the 1970s. This article lists new treatments.

Category: Journal Article

Ref.: C3A

Duffin, Christian

Better to receive?

Nursing older people, 19(1), February 2007, 16-17.

How does it feel if your eyesight or hearing is not quite up to scratch? What about if you cannot eat solid food or move around very easily? To answer these questions increasing numbers of trainers are ordering nurses to experience such things themselves.

Category: Journal Article

Ref.: G2

Shaw, Rhonda M, Helmes, Edward and Mitchell, David

Age-related change in visual, spatial and verbal memory.

Australasian journal on ageing, 25(1), March 2006, 14-19.

This article explores the relationship between age and performance on verbal, visual and spatial memory tasks and to examine whether verbal, visual and spatial memory can be measured as separate memory representations. Sixty-two participants aged between 18 and 57 years completed a listening span task, a dot memory task and an irregular polygon with articulatory suppression task.

Category: Journal Article

Ref.: E

Jones, Sally A. and Shinton, Roger A.

Improving outcome in stroke patients with visual problems.

Age and ageing, 35(6), November 2006, 560-565.

Stroke is a common condition, frequently with significant effects on a patient's ability to live an active and independent life. Anything that may potentially have a beneficial effect on the rehabilitation of such patients should therefore be explored, and as ocular and visual problems are common in patients with stroke, it is important that their implications are understood.

Category: Journal Article

Ref.: H2

Journal articles

Lord, Stephen R.

Visual risk factors for falls in older people.

Age and ageing. 35(Supp. 2), September 2006, ii42-ii45.

Poor vision reduces postural stability and significantly increases the risk of falls and fractures in older people. Most studies have found that poor visual acuity increases the risk of falls. However, studies that have included multiple visual measures have found that reduced contrast sensitivity and depth perception are the most important visual risk factors for falls. Multifocal glasses may add to this risk because their near-vision lenses impair distance contrast sensitivity and depth perception in the lower visual field.

Category: Journal Article

Ref.: E3

Arditi, Aries

Enhancing the visual environment for older and visually impaired persons.

Alzheimer's care quarterly. 6(4), October/December 2005, 294-299.

This article gives guidelines for making the environment more visually accessible to older people with low vision and with visual declines typical of older age. These include typographic modifications to documents and signage, and enhancements of colour and contrast. There is also an introduction to how vision declines with age, describing the major determinants of object visibility.

Category: Journal Article

Ref.: B06

Heine, Chyrisse and Browning, Colette J

The communication and psychosocial perceptions of older adults with sensory loss : a qualitative study.

Ageing & society. 24(1), January 2004, 113-130.

Sensory loss (visual and/or hearing loss) is prevalent in older adults. Decreased vision and/or hearing acuity often result in poor communication and psychosocial functioning. This qualitative study explores the communication and psychosocial perceptions of a group of older adults with single or dual sensory loss.

Category: Journal Article

Ref.: C3A

Abdelhafiz, Ahmed and Austin, Christopher A.

Visual factors should be assessed in older people presenting with falls or hip fracture.

Age and ageing. 32(1), January 2003, 26-30.

Visual impairment, although not routinely assessed, is an important risk factor for falls and hip fracture in older people. Impaired vision is highly prevalent and commonly unreported in the elderly population, particularly in women and those living in nursing homes.

Category: Journal Article

Ref.: D26

Chivers, Julie

Care of older people with visual impairment.

Series Continuing professional development

Nursing older people. 15(1), 2003, 22-26. 5 page(s).

Explains how nursing staff can make a difference to older patients with visual impairment through understanding of their situation and recognising the effects of impaired sight.

Category: Journal Article

Ref.: C3A

Journal articles

Pache, Mona

Colour vision deficiencies in Alzheimer's disease

Age and ageing. 32(4), 2003, 422-426.

The study investigated whether Alzheimer's disease impairs colour vision. It was found that patients with Alzheimer's disease do have a colour deficiency but this is independent of the severity of the disease.

Category: Journal Article

Ref.: H1

Crosbie, Jack and Gan, Neesha

Effect of age and visual contrast on gait during obstacle negotiation.

Australasian journal on ageing. 22(3), September 2003, 131-135.

Obstacle avoidance and negotiation may pose significant difficulties for older people. This study compared two groups of healthy subjects, one with a mean age of 22 years and an older group with a mean age of 73 years. Concluded that healthy older subjects do not show any inherent loss of fluency or hesitation in negotiating obstacles, irrespective of the contrast of the obstacle with its surroundings.

Category: Journal Article

Ref.: A2

Mendez, Mario F

Posterior cortical atrophy : clinical characteristics and differences compared to Alzheimer's disease.

Dementia and geriatric cognitive disorders. 14(1), June 2002, 33-40.

Original research article. Predominant and progressive complex visual disorders are often due to posterior cortical atrophy, a rare, early-onset dementing syndrome presenting with visual complaints. 50 refs.

Category: Journal Article

Ref.: E1

Lupsakko, Taina

Combined hearing and visual impairment and depression in a population aged 75 years and older.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry. 17(9), September 2002. 808-813. 6 pages.

Depression is associated with both visual and hearing impairment. Depressive symptoms, but not major depression, were common if elderly persons had combined sensory impairment.

Category: Journal Article

Ref.: H7

Flynn, Mark C

Hearing and vision loss within residential care facilities: the need for improved service delivery

Australasian journal on ageing. 21(3), September 2002, 141-144.

This study confirms the high prevalence of hearing impairment amongst the elderly and makes a case for increased rehabilitation services being directed towards this population.

Category: Journal Article

Ref.: A5

Evans, J R

Prevalence of visual impairment in people aged 75 years and older in Britain : results from the MRC trial of assessment and management of older people in the community

British journal of ophthalmology. 86, 2002, 795-800.

The study examined and measured the prevalence of visual impairment in a large sample of people aged 75 years and over who were participating in the MRC trial of assessment and management study.

Category: Journal Article

Ref.: C3A

Murgatroyd, C. and Prettyman, R

An Investigation of visual hallucinosis and visual sensory status in dementia.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry. 16(7), July 2001, 709-713. 5 pages.

Visual hallucinations occur frequently in people with dementia and there is some evidence of an association between hallucinations and impaired visual function. The study looked at an association between visual acuity, ambient illumination and hallucinations in people with dementia. Findings confirmed an association between visual impairment and hallucinations and suggest that environmental illumination, adequate lighting is a contributory factor too.

Category: Journal Article

Ref.: D26

Kergoat, Helene

Normal optic nerve head topography in the early stages of dementia of the Alzheimer type.

Dementia and geriatric cognitive disorders. 12(6), November/December 2001, 359-363.

Examines whether the optic nerve head is altered in Alzheimer's dementia. Results suggest that the deficits in visual function that occur in Alzheimer's dementia are not related to optic nerve head structural anomalies, at least in the earlier stages of dementia. 41 references.

Category: Journal Article

Ref.: D01

Harwood, Rowan

Visual problems and falls.

Age and ageing. 30(Suppl. 4), November 2001, 13-18.

Explains the links between visual problems and falls in elderly people, including those with dementia and reviews the current literature. 40 references.

Category: Journal Article

Ref.: D26

Cormack, Francesca K, Tovee, Martin and Ballard, Clive

Contrast sensitivity and visual acuity in patients with Alzheimer's disease.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry 15(7), July 2000, 614- 620. 7 pages.

Research looking at the effects of changes in vision on the behaviour and functional abilities of people with dementia, particularly a loss of contrast sensitivity and visual acuity. Visual impairment is found to effect behaviour in people with dementia. 56 references.

Category: Journal Article

Ref.: D26

Morris, Clare

Visual impairments and problems with perception.

The journal of dementia care 7(6), November/December 1999, 26-28. 3 pages.

A range of complex and specific visual impairment and perceptual problems can compound the difficulties faced by a person with dementia. These are explained in the context of communication and dementia. 2 references.

Category: Journal Article

Ref.: C3A

Burke, Tim

A grey area : colour specification in dementia-specific accommodation : 2000 Biennial

International Dementia Conference Dementia care - getting closer to home.

Wentworth Falls, NSW: Wayfinder Design, 1998.

The visual abilities of the elderly are a primary consideration in colour specification in aged care facilities. Visual acuity, accommodation, the visual field, brightness discrimination, dark adaptation, and recovery from glare all decrease within age

Category: Paper

Ref.: B06A

Current Awareness

Dementia in the News

Wisdom family makes care decision

The family of legendary showman Sir Norman Wisdom has spoken about their decision to admit him to a care home.

(BBC News Online, 16th January 2008)

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/isle_of_man/7191163.stm

People with dementia survive on average four and a half years after diagnosis

A study has found that people with dementia survive an average of four and a half years after diagnosis, with age, sex, and existing disability all having an influence on life expectancy.

(Science Daily, 11th January 2008)

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/01/080110190856.htm>

Gene mutation plus stroke increase dementia risk

Patients who have experienced a stroke and who are also carriers of APOE4, the gene mutation associated with an increased risk of Alzheimer's disease, have a greater risk of dementia compared with individuals with just one - or none -- of these factors, according to a report in the medical journal Neurology.

(Health Central, 10th January 2008)

<http://www.healthcentral.com/rheumatoid-arthritis/news-199668-66.html>

What to do with Mum?

Broadcaster Tony Robinson reveals the guilt he felt when he put his mother, who suffered from Alzheimer's, into a care home.

(BBC News Online, 10th January 2008)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7179679.stm>

Lead poisoning in infancy could trigger Alzheimer's

According to a study, lead poisoning in early life could trigger Alzheimer's disease.

(Big News Day, 10th January 2008)

http://www.bignewsday.com/story.asp?code=CA1045445V&news=lead_poisoning_in_infancy_could_trigger_alzheimers

Dementia drug instant hit claim

US scientists claim a drug can reverse some of the early symptoms of Alzheimer's disease - with the first effects seen within 10 minutes.

(BBC News Online, 10th January 2008)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7179060.stm>

Home improvement

Residential care has improved dramatically in recent years - so why do we regard it with such fear and loathing?

(The Guardian, 10th January 2008)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/jan/09/longtermcare.socialcare>

Elderly care funding reform plea

Most people would be happy to contribute to the costs of long-term care for the elderly but want a fairer system, a report suggests. A consultation of 700 people showed high levels of dissatisfaction with means testing and the "postcode lottery" over social care entitlements.

(BBC Online, 7th January 2008)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7171411.stm>

Current Awareness New Library Stock

AIDS-related dementia

Waltreit, Robert [et al.]

AIDS dementia complex and Hashimoto encephalopathy in a senescent woman.
International journal of geriatric psychiatry, Vol. 22, Part 12, December 2007, pp. 1267-1268
Case report. AIDS dementia complex is one of the specific infectious dementias, which is rarely seen in senescent (>75 years of age) subjects.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: H5

Alzheimer's disease

Rozzini, Luca [et al.]

Conversion of amnesic Mild Cognitive Impairment to dementia of Alzheimer type is independent to memory deterioration.
International journal of geriatric psychiatry, Vol. 22, Part 2, December 2007, pp. 1217-1222
Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) defines a transitional stage between normal ageing and dementia, and reflects the clinical situation where a person has memory complaints and objective evidence of cognitive impairment but no evidence of dementia. To plan the care of patients with MCI, it is important to predict as accurately as possible potential risk factors modulation the conversion to Alzheimer's disease.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: H1

Assessment/Diagnosis

Page, S. [et al.]

Nurses making a diagnosis of dementia : a potential change in practice.
International journal of geriatric psychiatry, Vol. 23, Part 1, January 2008, Page(s) 27-33
This study aimed to compare nurse initial diagnoses following domiciliary visits with subsequent formal multidisciplinary formulation based upon the full possession of investigations, neuropsychological tests and brain imaging.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: C1

Peel, Nancye M., Bartlett, Helen P. and Marshall, Alison L.

Measuring quality of life in older people : reliability and validity of WHOQOL-OLD.
Australasian journal on ageing, Vol. 26, Part 4, December 2007, Page(s) 162-167
The World Health Organization (WHO) recently developed a generic Quality of Life (QOL) measure, the WHOQOL-OLD, specifically for use with older adults. This pilot study aimed to test the psychometric properties of the new measure to determine its suitability for evaluating outcomes of healthy ageing interventions.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: C1

Carers

Arai, Asuna [et al.]

Do family caregivers perceive more difficulty when they look after patients with early onset dementia compared to those with late onset dementia?

International journal of geriatric psychiatry, Vol. 22, Part 12, December 2007, Page(s) 1255-

This study aimed to compare family caregiving situations for patients with early onset dementia (EOD) and late onset dementia (LOD), and to identify the specific problems experienced by relatives caring for EOD patients.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: B24

Communication

Murphy, Joan, Gray, Cindy M and Cox, Sylvia

Talking Mats : the effectiveness of a low technology communication framework to help people with dementia express their views.

Journal of assistive technologies, Vol. 1, Part 2, December 2007, Page(s) 30-34

The aims of this project were to establish whether Talking Mats, a low tech communication framework, helps people with dementia to communicate and to examine how effective the Talking Mats framework is for people at different stages of dementia.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: C3

Day Hospital

Law, Emma

The fast track day hospital maintaining clinical improvement in community setting.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry, Vol. 23, Part 1, January 2008, Page(s) 109-110

In a previous article the authors described the benefits of a fast track day hospital for people with dementia, which provides rapid assessment and intensive management of behaviour problems. In this follow-up paper we describe a larger data set and examine the stability of improvement after discharge.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: B22A

Depression

Lavretsky, Helen [et al.]

The effects of the dopamine and serotonin transporter polymorphisms on clinical features and treatment response in geriatric depression : a pilot study.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry, Vol. 23, Part 1, January 2008, Page(s) 55-59

The authors examined the role of dopamine and serotonin transporter genetic polymorphisms

in clinical and cognitive features of subjects with late-life depression, and in preferential treatment response to the combination of methylphenidate and citalopram.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: H7

Domiciliary/Home care

Rothera, Ian [et al.]

An evaluation of a specialist multiagency home support service for older people with dementia using qualitative methods.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry, Vol. 23, Part 1, January 2008, Page(s) 65-72

Standard home care support for people with dementia has been criticised in statutory inspection reports, and may lead to unnecessary crises, hospital or care home admissions. This study aimed to establish whether a specialist multiagency home care service for older people with dementia delivered better quality care than standard services, and how any improvements were achieved.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: B21

Drug Therapy

Fuh, Jong-Ling and Wang, Shuu-Jiun

Cost-effectiveness analysis of donepezil for mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease in Taiwan.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry, Vol. 23, Part 1, January 2008, Page(s) 73-78

Donepezil is a drug used for treatment in patients with Alzheimer's disease (AD). Information regarding the cost-effectiveness of this medication was previously rare in Asia. The authors used techniques of decision analysis and economic cost-effectiveness in conjunction with local epidemiological and clinical data on costs of mild to moderate AD to assess the cost-effectiveness of donepezil in Taiwan.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: D11

Bierman, E.J.M. [et al.]

The effect of chronic benzodiazepine use on cognitive functioning in older persons : good, bad or indifferent?

International journal of geriatric psychiatry, Vol. 22, Part 12, December 2007, pp. 1194-1200

This study investigates the effects of benzodiazepine (BZ) use on cognitive performance in elderly persons in a longitudinal design.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: D11

Ethics/Philosophy

Van der Vorm, Anco [et al.]

Genetic research into Alzheimer's disease : a European focus group study on ethical issues.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry, Vol. 23, Part 1, January 2008, Page(s) 11-15

Nowadays, there is an increasing interest in the heritable aspects of Alzheimer's disease (AD). The ethical implications of this kind of research are also attracting attention. However, relatively few open-ended qualitative studies have been carried out to study these aspects. This study aims to explore and analyse ethical issues raised by genetic research into AD.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: B03

Health and welfare of older people

Social isolation in older people.

Community care, Part 1703, December 2007, Page(s) 36-37

The Social Care Institute for Excellence analyses research findings concerning social isolation in older people.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: A2

Cohen, Miri

Acute Stress Disorder in older, middle-aged and younger adults in reaction to the second Lebanon war.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry, Vol. 23, Part 1, January 2008, Page(s) 33-40

This study aimed to compare rate of acute stress disorder and intensity of acute stress symptoms in younger, middle-aged and older Israeli citizens exposed to missile attacks during the second Lebanon war.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: A2

McLafferty, Farley A.

Nursing management of the patient with hypothermia.

Nursing standard, Vol. 22, Part 17, January 2008, Page(s) 43-46

This article describes the signs and symptoms of hypothermia and outlines its acute nursing management.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: A2

Chiang, Kai-Jo [et al.]

Evaluation of the effect of a life review group program on self-esteem and life satisfaction in the elderly.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry, Vol. 23, Part 1, January 2008, Page(s) 7-10

This study was aimed at evaluation whether a Life Review Group Program improved the self-esteem and life satisfaction in the elderly.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: B02

Housing

Hernandez, Mauro and Newcomer, Robert

Assisted living and special populations : what do we know about difference in use and potential access barriers?

The gerontologist, Vol. 47, Part SI 3, December 2007, Page(s) 110-117

The purpose of this article was to review existing knowledge about assisted living use by traditionally underserved populations, including people of colour, low-income people, and those living in rural communities.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: B12N

Kane, Rosalie A., Wilson, Keren Brown and Spector, William

Developing a research agenda for assisted living.

The gerontologist, Vol. 47, Part SI 3, December 2007, Page(s) 141-154

The authors describe an approach to identifying knowledge gaps, research questions and methodological issues for assisted living research.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: B12N

Manthorpe, Jill

Extra-care and older people.

Community care, Part 1704, January 2008, Page(s) 30-31

The author examines research into extra-care housing for older people and the role of remodelling accommodation.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: B12N

Kane, Rosalie A. and Wilson, Keren Brown

Improving practice through research in and about assisted living : implications for a research agenda.

The gerontologist, Vol. 47, Part SI 3, December 2007, Page(s) 4-7

This special issue focuses on generating knowledge about assisted living for older people - what has been learned so far, the credibility of that information, and future directions for research.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: B12N

Learning Disabilities**Aspinall, Ann**

How can assistive technology and telecare support the independence and employment prospects for adults with learning disabilities.

Journal of assistive technologies, Vol. 1, Part 2, December 2007, Page(s) 43-48

This paper looks at some case studies from the TATE (Through Assistive Technology to Employment) Project. Funded through the second round of the Equal Community Programme (ESF) the TATE project has looked at how assistive technology and telecare can be implemented to enhance the quality of life for adults with learning disabilities. Using a series of case studies, the paper illustrates some of the advantages of both innovative and traditional assistive technology and telecare to the service user, formal and family carers.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: H4

Longstay Care**Vincze, Gabor [et al.]**

Risk factors of cognitive decline in residential care in Hungary.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry, Vol. 22, Part 12, December 2007, Page(s) 1208-

The incidence of dementia is known to vary between nations due to population specific interactions of genetic and epigenetic risk factors. Since this type of data was missing from the Central-Eastern part of Europe, especially from Hungary, an ongoing prospective multicentre study was initiated 3 years ago to determine the impact of some well-known social and biological dementia risk factors and the prevalences and conversion rates of dementia and depression syndromes.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: E2C

Sasaki, Megumi, Arai, Asuna and Arai, Yumiko

Factors related to institutionalization among disabled older people : a two-year longitudinal study

International journal of geriatric psychiatry, Vol. 23, Part 1, January 2008, Page(s) 113-115

The authors previously reported factors related to potentially harmful behaviours towards disabled older people in a cross-sectional study. The present study is a two-year follow-up study. This longitudinal study aimed to identify factors related to institutionalization among community-dwelling disabled older people.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: B1

Parkinson's disease

McNamara, Patrick, Dursa, Raymon and Harris, Erica

Alterations in the sense of self and personality in Parkinson's disease.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry, Vol. 23, Part 1, January 2008, Page(s) 79-84

The authors hypothesised that alterations of subcomponents ('harm-avoidance') of personality and the sense of Self in patients with Parkinson's disease would be associated with executive cognitive dysfunction.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: H6G

Person-centred care

Missotten, Pierre [et al.]

Quality of life in dementia : a 2-year follow-up study.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry, Vol. 22, Part 12, December 2007, pp. 1201-1207

This study aimed to examine the evolution of quality of life (QOL) in demented subjects at base-line, one and 2 years later and to determine clinical variables associated with QOL.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: D12

Planning - Health and Social Care

Fine, Michael D. and Mitchell, Annette

Immigration and the aged care workforce in Australia : meeting the deficit.

Australasian journal on ageing, Vol. 26, Part 4, December 2007, Page(s) 157-161

Population ageing and low fertility rates are placing the Australian workforce in the twenty-first century under pressure. Aged care is one of the key areas of the workforce in which labour shortages can be expected. This is likely to result in calls for these shortages to be increasingly addressed by the recruitment of more immigrant care workers, both skilled and unskilled. This paper examines the existing levels of migrant representation and considers the prospects for future increases in overseas-born workers.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: A5

Reminiscence

Wang, Jing-Jy

Group reminiscence therapy for cognitive and affective function of demented elderly in Taiwan.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry, Vol. 22, Part 12, December 2007, pp. 1235-1240

Reminiscence is believed to be effective in improving the cognition and mood of demented people. This study tested the hypothesis that structured group reminiscence therapy can prevent the progression of cognitive impairment and enhance affective function in the cognitively impaired elderly.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: D12B

Hinton, Ladson, Farias, Sarah Tomaszewski and Wegelin, Jacob

Neuropsychiatric symptoms are associated with disability in cognitively impaired Latino elderly with and without dementia : results from the Sacramento Area Latino study on Aging.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry, Vol. 23, Part 1, January 2008, Page(s) 102-108

This study aimed to examine the relationship between neuropsychiatric symptoms burden and disability in cognitively impaired older Latinos.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: E

Kim, Jae-Min [et al.]

Associations between head circumference, leg length and dementia in a Korean population.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry, Vol. 23, Part 1, January 2008, Page(s) 41-48

Adult leg length is influenced by nutritional intake in childhood. Shorter leg length has been found to be associated with adverse health outcomes in late life, including dementia. Smaller head circumference has also been found to be associated with dementia. The independence of these two potential markers of risk for dementia has not been investigated.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: E

Residential Homes**Scherer, Samuel C. [et al.]**

Assessments of insomnia in high level residential aged care facility residents.

Australasian journal on ageing, Vol. 26, Part 4, December 2007, Page(s) 201-204

Insomnia is common in nursing home settings but assessment and management of sleep disturbance is often suboptimal. New assessment procedures that target potentially remediable clinical causes of insomnia were implemented and evaluated at two high level residential aged care facilities in Melbourne, Australia.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: B12H

Risk Assessment**Lynch, C.A., Moran, M. and Lawlor, B.A.**

Firearms and dementia : a smoking gun?

International journal of geriatric psychiatry, Vol. 23, Part 1, January 2008, Page(s) 1-6

Risk assessment is a key component in the evaluation of dementia. In assessing a person with dementia, safety issues (e.g. involving driving, cooking or wandering) are commonly considered. Standardised assessments and management guidelines have been developed in relation to some of these areas, which may aid the doctor in advising a patient and their family. However, no guidelines exist regarding the appropriate management of the person with dementia who may own or have access to a firearm.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: C1G

Spirituality**Payman, Vahid, George, Kuruvilla and Ryburn, Bridget**

Religiosity of depressed elderly inpatients.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry, Vol. 23, Part 1, January 2008, Page(s) 16-21

This study aimed to determine the prevalence of religious practices and beliefs of depressed elderly Australians and their relationship to physical, social and cognitive variables known to influence the prognosis of depression in the elderly, and also to compare the results obtained with those from similar North American studies.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: D19

Technology

Price, Celia

Evaluation of an activity monitoring system for people with dementia.

Journal of assistive technologies, Vol. 1, Part 2, December 2007, Page(s) 11-17

The aim of this evaluation was to carry out an evaluation of the Just Checking activity monitoring system, which supports people with dementia in their own homes.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: B07

Snygg, Martin

Dealing with ageing demographics in Europe the GIS-way.

Journal of assistive technologies, Vol. 1, Part 2, December 2007, Page(s) 26-29

The demographic ageing of western societies represents a major challenge for health and social care in the 21st century. Birth rates are decreasing and older people are living longer and being healthier in old age. This changing demography will have major implications for the way we work, for family and intergenerational relationships, social networks and political, economic and consumer behaviour. It will also have an affect on the delivery of medical, health and social services and welfare support. Deploying geographical information systems (GIS) within administrative healthcare systems creates a new opportunity to see the whole picture and to better manage available resources.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: B07

Doughty, Kevin [et al.]

Telecare, telehealth and assistive technologies : do we know what we're talking about?

Journal of assistive technologies, Vol. 1, Part 2, December 2007, Page(s) 6-10

The development of telecare services across the UK has been supported by grants from the respective governments of Scotland and Wales, and by the DH in England. New services are being established to sometimes operate alongside existing community equipment services and community alarm services. Elsewhere they are embracing a wider range of services including rehabilitation, intermediate care and health services designed to reduce the use of unscheduled care services. This paper discusses the difficulties in understanding the scope of telecare services, and the definitions of services that will need to be confirmed so that service users can choose appropriately if offered direct payments.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: B07

Treatment

Williams, Nia [et al.]

Public attitudes to life-sustaining treatments and euthanasia in dementia.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry, Vol. 22, Part 12, December 2007, pp.) 1229-1234

The authors conducted a cross-sectional survey to elicit the views of the general public on euthanasia and life-sustaining treatments in the face of dementia.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: E1D

Connelly, Peter J., Passmore, A.P. and Lawlor, Brian A.

The treatment of mild Alzheimer's disease post-NICE.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry, Vol. 22, Part 12, December 2007, pp. 1262-1263

Research letter. The efficacy of cholinesterase inhibitors in treating cognitive, functional or neuropsychiatric symptoms in patients with Alzheimer's disease (AD) has been established. By contrast trials of potential alternatives for improving cognition in mild AD have had small sample sizes or produced inconclusive and often conflicting results.

Category: Journal Article

Ref: E1D