Master of Clinical Science

A systematic review of appropriateness and effectiveness of management strategies used for the Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia in the residential care setting.

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Table of Contents

Table of	of contents	3
Table o	of figures and tables	5
Abstra	ct	6
Studen	nt declaration	8
List of	abbreviations	9
Chapte	er 1: Introduction	
1.1 healt	Introduction to comprehensive systematic reviews of effectiveness and appropriate thcare	
1.2	The structure of this thesis	11
1.3	Situating this review	12
1.4	An introduction to systematic reviews	12
1.5	Effectiveness and appropriateness	14
1.6	Research into effectiveness and appropriateness	15
1.7	Effectiveness and appropriateness in residential aged care	15
1.8	Challenges in undertaking a comprehensive systematic review	16
Cha	pter2: Background	
2.1	Introduction to the behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia	18
2.2	Dementia	18
2.3	Behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia	19
2.4	Behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia in residential care	19
2.5	Management of Behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia in residentia	al care19
Chapte	er 3:The systematic review protocol	
3.1	The systematic review protocol	21
3.2	Background	
3.3	Objective	23
3.4	Review question	23

3.5	Criteria for considering studies for this review - Inclusion criteria	24
3.6	Search strategy and process	27
3.7	Method of the review	28
Chap	ter 4: Results	
4.1	Results of search	30
4.2	Methodological assessment of studies	32
4.3	Findings from Individual Included Studies	43
4.4	Synthesis of review findings	64
Chap	ter 5: Discussion	
5.1	Standard behavioral therapies	69
5.2	Alternative therapies	70
5.3	Complementary therapies	71
5.4	Psychotherapies	72
5.5	Environmental conditions	72
5.6 Pl	harmacological management	73
5.7	Effectiveness of agents	73
5.8	Longitudinal studies	74
5.9	Medication optimization and expert opinion	75
5.10	Methodological issues in research	76
5.11	Limitations of this study	76
Chap	ter 6: Conclusions and Recommendations	
6.1	Conclusions	78
6.2	Recommendations for Practice	79
6.3	Recommendations for further research	80
Referen	ces	81
Acknoledgement		83
Appendices		84

List of tables and figures

Figure 1	Flow chart detailing study identification and selection	31
Figure 2	Synthesized findings of Qualitative studies	65
Figure 3	Meta-Analysis Risperidone vs. Placebo	66
Table 1	Qualitative Studies critical appraisal	32
Table 2	Critical appraisal of Randomized Control Trial / Pseudo-randomized Trial	35
Table 3	Critical appraisal of Comparable Cohort / Case Control Studies	38
Table 4	Critical appraisal of Descriptive / Case Series Studies	40
Table 5	Findings: Use of individualized music by trained staff and family:	
	translating research into practice	. 44
Table 6	Findings: The influence of caregiver singing and background music on	
	vocally expressed emotions and moods in dementia care: a qualitative analysis	46
Table 7	Joanna Briggs Institute levels of credibility of qualitative evidence	64

Abstract

Background

The incidence of dementia is increasing throughout the world. People with dementia often require residential care. The management of behaviours in residential care is a significant and stressful part of caring for people with dementia. The ability to apply appropriate and effective management strategies to these behaviours is vital to maintain the safety of the person with dementia and the people who live with them and care for them.

Objectives

The aim of this review is to identify and synthesise the best available evidence of the appropriateness and effectiveness of different strategies used to manage the behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia in the residential care setting.

Inclusion criteria

Types of participants

Adults aged 65 years and older regardless of gender, ethnicity, co-morbidities who reside in a residential care facility. The subjects must have a diagnosis of dementia and exhibit behaviours which require a degree of modification or management so that they can be safely managed in a residential care facility.

Types of interventions/Phenomenon of Interest

Interventions types examined in this review were: Standard behavioural therapies, Alternative therapies, Complementary therapies, Psychotherapies, Environmental factors, Pharmacological interventions.

Types of studies

This comprehensive review considered both qualitative and quantitative studies. Included quantitative studies were randomized control trials, case control and cohort studies. The qualitative studies focused on the experiences of the people with dementia and the people who care for them.

Types of Outcome Measures

There was a wide range of outcome measures in the selected studies. The outcome strategies focused on both prevalence and severity of behaviours to illustrate effectiveness of interventions.

Search Strategy

Both published and unpublished English language studies were considered, from inception of the eight databases searched up to March 2012. A three-step search strategy was utilized in each component of this review.

Methodological quality

20 papers were assessed for methodological quality by two independent reviewers, using standardised Joanna Briggs Institute instruments. Of these papers, two were qualitative and the remaining 18 were quantitative through this process studies were considered to be of moderate to high quality as assessed against the Joanna Briggs critical appraisal tools. No studies were excluded based on methodological quality.

Data Collection and Data Synthesis

Data was extracted using standardized data extraction tools. Meta-analysis of quantitative data was appropriate for two of the studies, it was not attempted on the others due to lack of clinical and statistical heterogeneity; therefore findings are presented as a narrative. Meta-aggregation of qualitative findings was conducted in order to generate synthesised findings.

Results

20 papers were identified for this systematic review. 18 of these papers were quantitative and two were qualitative. These papers described effective and appropriate management of the behavioural and psychological symptoms using a variety of methods, pharmacological and non-pharmacological.

Conclusion

Effectiveness in management of behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia is dependent on correct diagnosis of the behaviour and the detection of underlying pathology organic or psychiatric. Interventions need to be targeted at the resident and based on the residents lived experiences.

Student declaration

This work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution to Matt Kowald and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text.

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Signed:

Matt Kowald

Dated: / /2013

List of Abbreviations

ABMI......Agitation Behaviour Mapping Instrument

ACTUARIAnalysis of Cost, Technology and Utilization Assessment and Review Instrument

BEHAVE-ADBehaviour Pathology in Alzheimer's disease Rating Scale

BPSD......Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia

BMS.....Behavior Measurement scale

CGIC......Clinical global impression of change

CIConfidence interval

CMAICohen Mansfield Agitation Inventory

CReMS......Comprehensive Review Management System

EPS.....Extra-pyramidal symptoms

FAST.....Functional Activity Staging Test

GDS......Global Deterioration Scale

MAI.....Medication appropriateness index

MAKS......Multimodal or multi component therapy

MAStTARI......Meta Analysis of Statistics Assessment and Review Instrument

MCMI......Modified Cohen Mansfield Agitation Inventory

MeSH......Medical subject headings

MMSE Mini Mental State Exam

M-NCAS......Modified Nursing Care Assessment Scale

NBRS......Neurobehavioral rating scale

NHBPS......Nursing home behavioral problem score