

Neuropsychiatric Symptoms in Nursing Home Residents

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Introduction

Neuropsychiatric symptoms in individuals 65 and older with severe acquired brain injury who live in nursing homes are poorly understood. We found six studies about NPS in patients younger than 65 years old with ABI in long-term care in our recent systematic review. Only two of these studies included data on the prevalence of psychotropic drug usage. NPS and PDU were found to be widespread, with depressive symptoms being the most commonly reported NPS and tranquillizers being the most commonly used psychotropic medications.

Description

ABI has been investigated more frequently in nursing home patients, primarily those with stroke and traumatic brain injury. Aggression and despair were shown to be more prevalent in these groups. Anxiety levels were shown to be higher in stroke patients and lower in TBI patients. NPS in patients with ABI are also widespread in other situations. Depression, irritability, and eating disorders were the most common NPS in hospitalized post stroke patients. Apathy and irritation were the most common NPS in individuals in rehabilitation programmes with severe traumatic brain damage [1,2].

Yet, little is known about the factors that in uence NPS in ABI. Aggression and gender, duration of hospitalisation, hypoxia as a cause of ABI, impairment in activities of daily living, and the use

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