Managing Dementing Disorders: Behavioural Disturbances


Rating (out of 4):

**Scope**
This guideline is mainly intended for primary care physicians, but is also of interest to geriatricians, geriatric psychiatrists, neurologists, clinical psychologists and others.

**Clinical Question**
What are recommendations for managing behavioural problems in dementia patients?

**Excellent/Good Evidence**

- Family doctors should ask caregivers about any serious behavioural and psychological disturbances in the patient, since these are common in people with dementia.

- If medication is needed to control agitation, aggression or psychotic behaviour, consider low doses of neuroleptic drugs, a serotonin reuptake inhibitor, or trazodone.

**Fair Evidence**

- Patients with sleep disturbances may be helped by trazodone.

**Consensus**

- After symptoms have been successfully controlled with medication, physicians should regularly evaluate the need for continuing treatment, and consider withdrawal of medication with close monitoring for emerging symptoms.
Managing Dementing Disorders: Depression
Reference # GAC 17H

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