The prevalence of pain in nursing-home patients with dementia

Published: 10-11-2006
Last updated: 14-05-2024

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Ethical review	Approved WMO
Status	Pending
Health condition type	Dementia and amnestic conditions
Study type	Observational non invasive

Summary

ID

NL-OMON29832

Source
ToetsingOnline

Brief title
Pain prevalence and dementia

Condition

- Dementia and amnestic conditions

Synonym
Cognitive impairment, loss of memory

Research involving
Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Universitair Medisch Centrum Sint Radboud
Source(s) of monetary or material Support: NWO ,AWBZ (onderzoek is onderdeel van opleiding tot verpleeghuisarts)

Intervention

Keyword: dementia, nursing-home, pain, prevalence

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

The prevalence of pain during morning care.

Secondary outcome

None.

Study description

Background summary

Dementia leads to cognitive imparment and loss of the ability to communicate. As a result patients suffering from (advanced) dementia are less capable in expressing pain. It is expected that there is an underdiagnosis of pain complaints in these patients resulting in undertreatement. There are no reliable data on this topic. Studies comparing the number of prescribed painkillers between patients with and without dementia show less prescriptions in the first group of patients. This underscores the hypotheses of underdiagnosis. Until recently there was no assessment tool for measurement of pain in dementia patients. Furthermore, there is literature which suggests that specific forms of dementia could amplify or attenuate the affective awareness of pain. In the past few years intensive research has been carried out to develop reliable scales for measuring pain in demented patients. This has resulted in some instruments with moderate psychometric qualities. Last year a few of them have been translated into Dutch. The validity and reliability have been studied and resulting in the PACSLAC having good psychometric qualities and being preferred by care-givers.

Study objective

The objective of this research project is to extend the knowledge of the prevalence of pain in patients who are admitted to a psychogeriatric wards of two nursing-homes.
The key question is: what's the prevalence of pain in a group of nursing-home patients with dementia?

Study design

Age, gender, type of dementia (Alzheimer, vascular, etc.) will be extracted from the patients' charts. Co-morbidity suspect for pain complaints will be classified according to the classification for disease in nursing-homes (a Dutch classification system based on the ICD-9 and ICD-10 modified for use in Dutch nursing-homes). To get a proper view on the cognitive level and the degree of dementia all patients have to complete a Minimal Mental State Examination (MMSE) and severity of dementia will be rated by the Global Deterioration Scale (GDS). All prescribed medication will be recorded and classified using the ATC-system.
Pain will be measured using the PACSLAC during morning care. All measurements will be done by one instructed nurse. Finally, all charts of the included patients will be read carefully for notifications that reflect pain in the two weeks before the measurement.

Study burden and risks

There is minimal burden since the design is almost entirely observational. Patients will not receive any kind of pain stimuli. Care will be carried out "as usual". There are no expected risks for the patients. In case patients will be found to have previously unknown pain, the treating physician and family will be informed. The physician and family are to decide whether this pain should be treated or not.

Contacts

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Trial sites

Listed location countries

Netherlands

Eligibility criteria

Age
Adults (18-64 years)
Elderly (65 years and older)

Inclusion criteria

Dementia according to DSM-IV criteria
Age > 65 years

Exclusion criteria

Terminal disease
Stay of less than 14 days in the nursing-home

Study design

Design

Study type: Observational non invasive

Masking:	Open (masking not used)
Control:	Uncontrolled
Primary purpose:	Diagnostic

Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status:	Pending
Start date (anticipated):	01-06-2006
Enrollment:	100
Type:	Anticipated

Ethics review

Approved WMO

Application type:	First submission
Review commission:	CMO regio Arnhem-Nijmegen (Nijmegen)

Study registrations

Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

In other registers

Register	ID
CCMO	NL12196.091.06