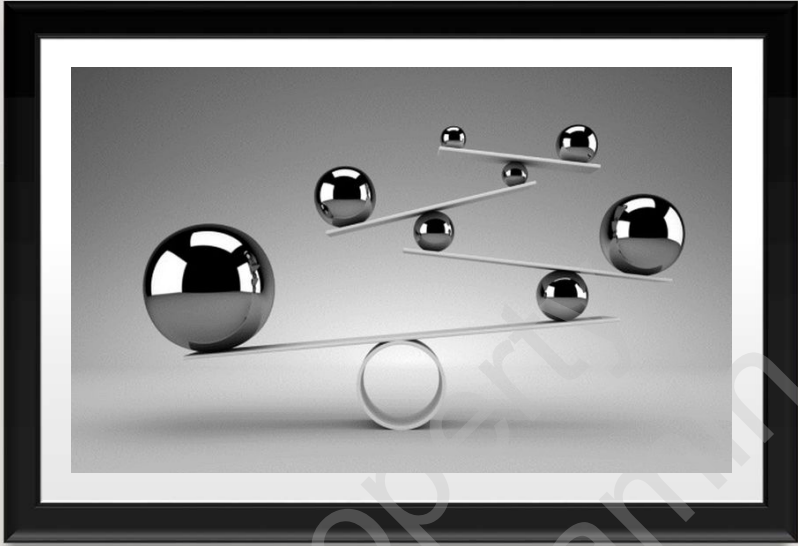


A BALANCED APPROACH TO BPSD

SOPHIYA BENJAMIN MBBS,
FRCPC

GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRIST



Regional Geriatric Refresher Day- June 16 2021

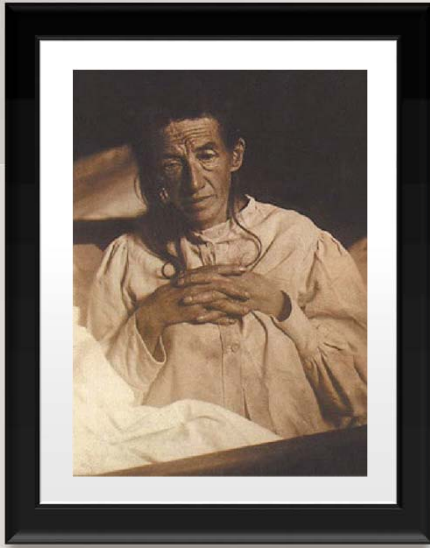
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FACULTY/PRESENTER DISCLOSURE

- **Relationships with commercial interests: NONE**
 - **Grants/Research Support:** None
 - **Speakers Bureau/Honoraria:** None
 - **Consulting Fees:** None
 - **Other:** None
- Relationships with noncommercial interests:**
 - **Grand River Hospital**
 - **McMaster University: Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences**
 - **GeriMedRisk: Co-Founder, Co ED**
 - **Grants: Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation (CABHI), CLRI, Labarge fund**
- **All patient info has been substantially changed and fictionalized.**

2

1



Auguste Deter

FIRST DESCRIPTIONS OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Alois
Alzheimer

"In March 1901, the husband of the 50-year-old woman had noticed **an untreatable paranoid symptomatology** in his wife and then - in fast progression and with increasing intensity - **sleep disorders, disturbances of memory, aggressiveness, crying, and progressive confusion**. Eventually, the husband was forced to take his wife to the Community Psychiatric Hospital at Frankfurt am Main, where symptomatology increasingly deteriorated and so Auguste D. remained an inpatient of the hospital up to her death on April 8, 1906."

Auguste D and Alzheimer's disease Maurer, K Volk S Gerbaldo H THE LANCET 1997 vol: 1546
Dialogues Clin Neurosci. 2003 Mar; 5(1): 101-108.

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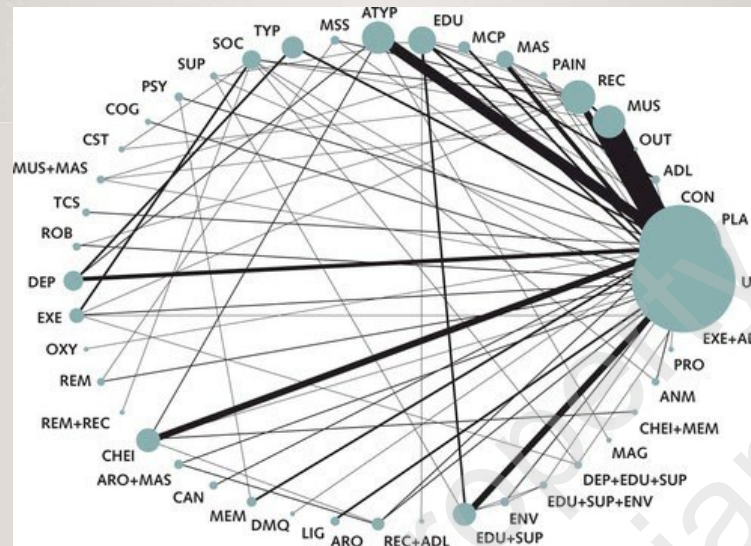
THE MOST EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS FOR
BEHAVIORAL SYMPTOMS IN DEMENTIA
ARE...

2

4

Comparative Efficacy of Interventions for Aggressive and Agitated Behaviors in Dementia [A Systematic Review and Network Meta-analysis]

19 684 article titles
and abstracts
3369 full-text articles
included
189 articles (25 736
persons with
dementia) in
systematic review
163 articles (23 143
persons with
dementia)



ANM = animal therapy; ARO = aromatherapy; ATYP = atypical antipsychotics; CAN = cannabinoids; CHEI = cholinesterase inhibitor; COG = modification of instrumental activities of daily living; CON = anticonvulsants; CST = cognitive stimulation; DEP = antidepressants; DMQ = dextromethorphan-quinidine; EDU = caregiver education; ENV = environmental modification; EXE = exercise; LIG = light therapy; MAG = magnesium; MAS = massage and touch therapy; MCP = multidisciplinary care plan; MEM = memantine; MSS = multisensory stimulation; MUS = music therapy; OUT = outdoor activities; OXY = oxytocin; PAIN = pain management; PLA = placebo; PRO = propranolol; PSY = antipsychotics; REC = recreation therapy; REM = reminiscence therapy; ROB = robotic pet therapy; SOC = social interaction; SUP = caregiver support; TCS = transcutaneous stimulation; TYP = typical antipsychotics; UC = usual care.

Watt et al. Ann Intern Med. 2019 Nov 5;171(9):633-642.

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ALL INTERVENTIONS WITH SIGNIFICANTLY EFFICACIOUS TREATMENT EFFECTS FOR THE OUTCOMES OF PHYSICAL AGGRESSION, VERBAL AGGRESSION, AND PHYSICAL AGITATION

Intervention	SMD	95% CrI	95% PrI	MD*
Physical Aggression:				
ADL modification vs. caregiver education	-0.6	-1.1 to -0.12	-1.2 to -0.02	-11.26
Massage and touch therapy vs. caregiver education	-0.62	-1.2 to -0.03	-1.27 to -0.06	-4.01
Outdoor activities vs. antipsychotics	-1.68	-3.35 to -0.09	-3.38 to -1.68	-10.87
Outdoor activities vs. caregiver education	-1.34	-2.61 to -0.1	-2.65 to -0.06	-12.68
Verbal Aggression:				
ADL modification vs. caregiver education + support	-0.97	-1.76 to -0.97	-1.79 to -0.17	-5.89
Massage and touch therapy vs. caregiver education + support	-1.21	-2.1 to -0.25	-2.14 to -0.22	-7.34
Massage and touch therapy vs. usual care	-0.53	-0.95 to -0.1	-1.01 to -0.04	-9.29
Physical Agitation:				
Massage and touch therapy vs. caregiver education	-0.65	-1.17 to -0.15	-1.38 to 0.05	-3.91
Massage and touch therapy vs. usual care	-0.62	-0.96 to -0.26	-1.22 to 0.01	-6.49

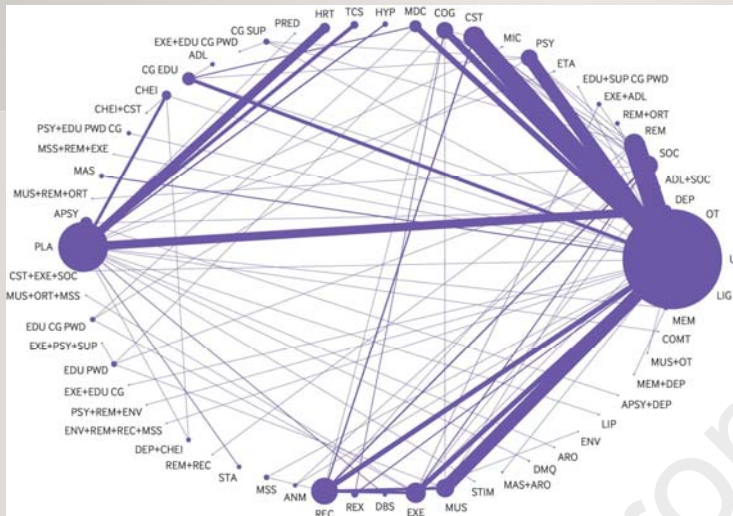
*Re-expressed as mean difference as measured on the Cohen-Mansfield Agitation Inventory (CMAI)

Watt et al. Ann Intern Med. 2019 Nov 5;171(9):633-642.

6

3

Network diagram for a network of interventions targeted at reducing symptoms of depression in people with dementia without a major depressive disorder.



ANM=animal therapy; APSY=antipsychotics; ARO=aromatherapy; CG SUP=care giver support; CHEI=cholinesterase inhibitor; COG=cognitive rehabilitation; COMT=catechol-O-methyltransferase inhibitor; CST=cognitive stimulation; DBS=deep brain stimulation; DEP=antidepressant; DMQ=dextromethorphan-quinidine; EDU+SUP CG PWD=education and support of person with dementia and care giver; EDU CG=care giver education; EDU CG PWD=education of care giver and person with dementia; EDU PWD=education of person with dementia; ENV=environmental modification; ETA=etanercept; EXE=exercise; HR=hormonal therapy; HYP=antihypertensive; LIG=light therapy; LIP=lipid lowering therapy; MAS=massage therapy; MDC=multidisciplinary care; MEM=memantine; MIC=antimicrobial; MSS=multisensory stimulation; MUS=music therapy; ORT=reality orientation; OT=occupational therapy; PLA=placebo; PRED=prednisone; PSY=psychotherapy; REC=recreation therapy; REX=relaxation therapy; REM=remembrance therapy; SOC=social interaction; STA=mood stabiliser; STIM=stimulant; TCS=transcutaneous stimulation; UC=usual care

Jennifer A Watt et al. BMJ 2021;372:bmj.n532

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DESCRIPTIONS OF HIGHLY EFFICACIOUS NON-DRUG INTERVENTIONS IN PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA

Cognitive stimulation Structures therapy (eg, one or two sessions per week, for a defined number of hours) with sessions aimed at promoting cognitive function (eg, orientation, reminiscence, art therapy, games) 	Exercise Active engagement in aerobic, resistance, or balance training 
Environmental modification Any modification to the living environment or place where care is provided 	Multidisciplinary care A care plan developed by more than one healthcare provider (eg, doctor, nurse, occupational therapist) 
Massage and touch therapy Any activity involving massage, acupuncture, or therapeutic touch 	Psychotherapy Cognitive behavioural therapy, counselling, validation therapy, problem adaptation therapy, supportive therapy, or psychodynamic interpersonal therapy 
Occupational therapy Case management or activities to enhance functional independence, delivered by an occupational therapist 	Reminiscence therapy Any activity to give reminders of a patient's past or family members 
Social interaction Interactions with caregivers or others, beyond the provision of usual care 	Animal therapy Any activity involving spending time with animals 

Jennifer A Watt et al. BMJ 2021;372:bmj.n532

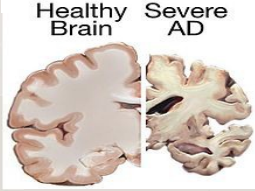
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BEHAVIORAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SYMPTOMS OF DEMENTIA

Pre-existing personality
Aging ,Acute medical problems
Sensory deficits :Hearing, vision







Synaptic or circuit disconnections as a result of degeneration;
Unmet needs:
Hunger, thirst, pain

Caregiver stress, depression
Lack of education
Mismatched expectations





Over/ under stimulating,
Unsafe
Lack of activity
Lack of established routine

Adapted from Kales et al BMJ 2015;350:h369

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HELEN KALES' COMMON SENSE APPROACH

There is no one magic bullet for BPSD

Do not reflexively prescribe

Become an expert in non-pharm strategies



Adapted from Kales et al BMJ 2015;350:h369

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5

	Patient	Caregiver	Environment
Describe	What was the behavior Patient perception Safety	Level of distress Safety What about behavior is distressing Response during and after	Who When Where What happened before and after
Investigate	Med changes Pain Side effects Sleep Sensory deficits Fear, boredom	Understanding Communication style Expectations Stress, depression Family/cultural context	Over (clutter, noise, people) /Understim (no cues, poor light) Routine Lack of activities
Create			
Evaluate	Was it effective? Unintended consequences?	What interventions were implemented?	What environmental changes have been made?

KALES ET AL BMJ 2015;350:H369

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6

GET A THOROUGH DESCRIPTION OF THE BEHAVIOR.

- Patient is agitated during mealtimes. Grabbing peers. Not responding to redirection.
- Mr.Y eats the dessert on his tray first. Once he is done with his dessert, he moves to the next table and attempts to take the cake from the peers tray. When nurse tries to take him back to his tray, he refuses to stay at his table and comes back. When redirected again, he tried to hit the person taking him away from the desert.
 - Intervention: Double deserts, popsicles

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INVESTIGATE THE BEHAVIOR

- 66 yr old lady with vascular dementia. Aphasic from past stroke.
- Behavior: Yelling, angry affect, unpredictable, can become physically responsive.
 - Education about aphasia, bell training, increase freedom

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KNOW THE PERSON BEHIND THE BEHAVIOR

- 82 yr old man with dementia, yells several hours a day. No known trigger.
- 82 yr old man who used to be an acapella singer, loves music by Charlie Pride. He also has dementia and is blind. He yells several hours a day.
- Charlie Pride songs in room, removed all unnecessary furniture

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FIND THE SWEET SPOT

COGNITIVELY INTACT PERSON DRIVES THE INTERVENTION

- 67 yr old retired builder with vascular dementia. Paces constantly, looking for work.



- Sanding wood blocks, wiping tables
- Set up before agitated

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COGNITIVELY INTACT PERSON DRIVES THE INTERVENTION

- 82 yr old man with dementia loves taking care of baby. Feeds her, coos and sings to her and is calm and relaxed with baby in his arms.
- He does not remember to take baby from room and room. Without baby, he can be fearful and combative.
 - Caregiver educated that he is not leaving baby behind on purpose. Intervention is to return baby everytime.

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MOVEMENT AND SEATING



72 yr old male non-ambulatory, keeps trying to get up from wheelchair, yells "go, go, go" all the time.

Wheelchair modified to allow foot propulsion

Much calmer, happy propelling self. A week later, behavior starts again but now intermittent.

Wheelchair break moved

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THE CAREGIVER IS THE LINK TO THE INTERVENTION

01

Acknowledge,
validate and
educate first

02

Ensure safety

03

Assess current
ability

04

Formulate a
specific
intervention

05

Coach
caregiver
through the
intervention

06

Praise caregiver
and encourage
self care

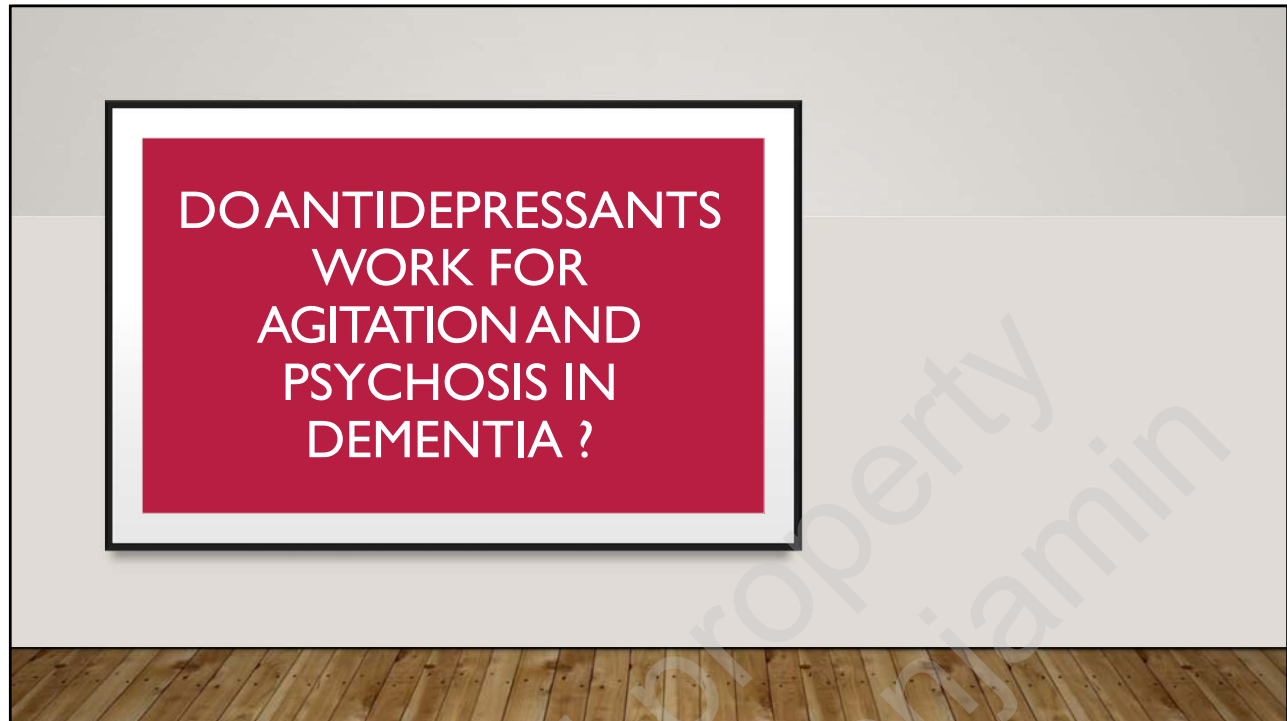
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PHARMACOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS

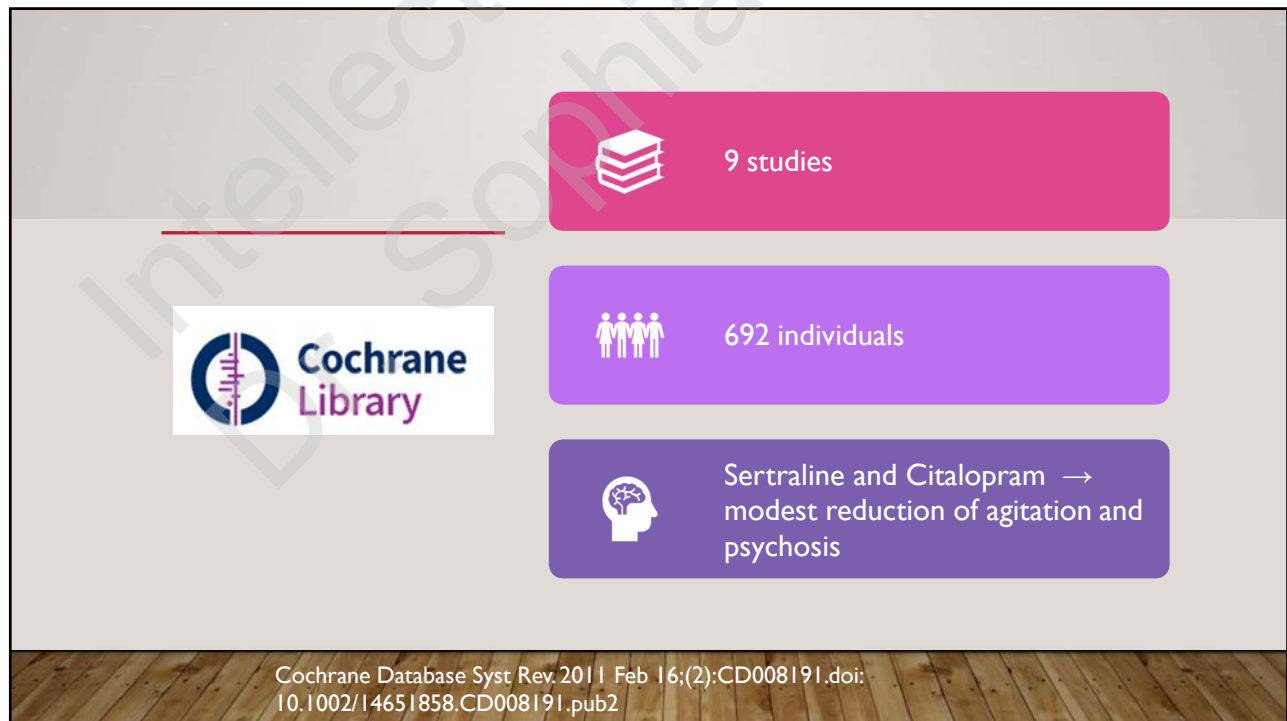


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CITAD TRIAL
18-POINT
NEUROBEHAVIORAL
RATING SCALE
AGITATION SUBSCALE
(NBRSA) -0.93 (95% CI, -1.80 TO -0.06), P = .04

186 patients Citalopram (94) Placebo (92)

8 academic centers US and Canada

Average age 78 – 79

Exclusion: QTc $\geq$ 450 ms for men and $\geq$ 475 ms for women

Dose: 78% received 30 mg and 15% received 20 mg

Porsteinsson AP, Drye LT, Pollock BG, Devanand DP, Frangakis C, et al. (2014) Effect of Citalopram on Agitation in Alzheimer's Disease – The CitAD Randomized Controlled Trial. JAMA 311: 682–691. doi:10.1001/jama.2014.93

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SUMMARY:
ANTIDEPRESSANTS
FOR AGITATION AND
PSYCHOSIS IN
DEMENTIA

SERTRALINE AND
CITALOPRAM EFFECTIVE

CONSIDER CARDIAC
RISK WITH CITALOPRAM

SERTRALINE MAY BE A
GOOD OPTION

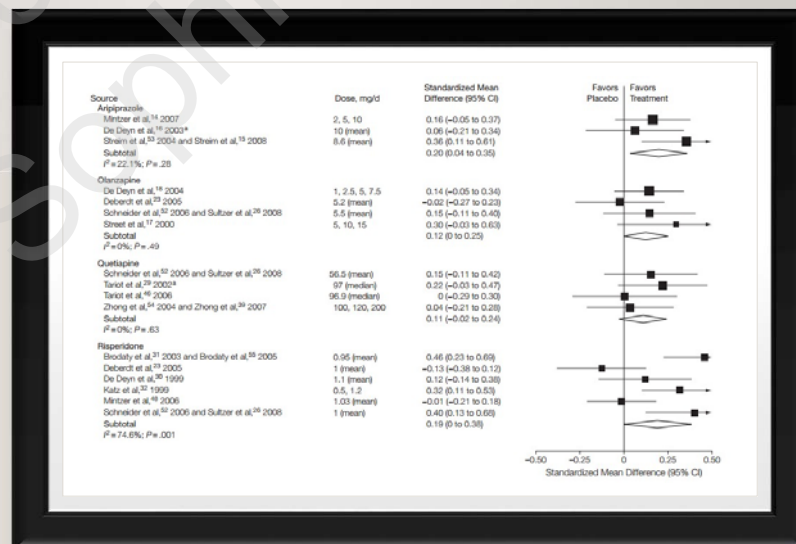
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ARE ANTIPSYCHOTICS EFFECTIVE IN BEHAVIORAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SYMPTOMS OF DEMENTIA (BPSD)?

25

MANY STUDIES- SMALL EFFECT SIZES



Maier et al. JAMA. 2011 Sep 28;306(12):1359-69.

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WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF USING ANTIPSYCHOTICS IN THE ELDERLY WITH DEMENTIA?

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SCHNEIDER ET
AL JAMA 2005



15 trials



10-12 weeks duration



3353 randomized to drug and 1757
to placebo



Death occurred more often in
drug group NNH = 100

<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/PostmarketDrugSafetyInformationforPatientsandProviders/ndm053171.htm>
<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/PostmarketDrugSafetyInformationforPatientsandProviders/ndm124830.htm>

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NO FDA APPROVAL

FDA Black box 2005 **Atypical antipsychotics**
Risk of death: 1.6 to 1.7 more than placebo
Cause: Heart Failure, sudden death, pneumonia

FDA Black box 2008 **Typical antipsychotics**

<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/PostmarketDrugSafetyInformationforPatientsandProviders/ucm053171.htm>
<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/PostmarketDrugSafetyInformationforPatientsandProviders/ucm124830.htm>

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HEALTH CANADA



- 2005 : Risperidone is approved for the "short-term symptomatic management of inappropriate behavior due to aggression and/or psychosis in patients with severe dementia"
- 2015: Indication for risperidone in dementia has been restricted to the short-term symptomatic management of aggression or psychotic symptoms in patients with severe dementia of the Alzheimer type unresponsive to non-pharmacological approaches and when there is a risk of harm to self or others. The indication no longer includes the treatment of other types of dementia such as vascular and mixed types of dementia.

<http://www.healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2005/14397a-eng.php>
<http://thehealthcanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2015/143797a-eng.php>

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VA DATABASE STUDY 2015

-  90,786 patients
-  New prescription for (haloperidol, olanzapine, quetiapine, and risperidone), valproic acid and its derivatives, or an antidepressant
-  Main outcome: NNH (death) over 180 days of follow-up in medication users compared with nonmedication users matched on several risk factors

JAMA Psychiatry. 2015;72(5):438-445. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2014.3018

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Medication	Risk Difference, % (95% CI) ^b	NNH (95% CI) ^b
Haloperidol	3.8 (1.0 to 6.6) ^c	26 (15 to 99)
Olanzapine	2.5 (0.3 to 4.7) ^d	40 (21 to 312)
Quetiapine	2.0 (0.7 to 3.3) ^c	50 (30 to 150)
Risperidone	3.7 (2.2 to 5.3) ^c	27 (19 to 46)
Valproic acid	4.1 (-1.0 to 9.2)	NA ^e
Antidepressant	0.6 (0.3 to 0.9) ^c	166 (107 to 362)

CRUDE DEATH RATE OVER 180 DAYS WITH NNH

JAMA Psychiatry. 2015;72(5):438-445. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2014.3018

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	Olanzapine	Risperidone
Cardiovascular/ CVA		53
↑ Appetite, ↑ wt	24	25
Anticholinergic symptoms	6	
EPS	10	20
Urinary tract symptoms	36	21
Sedation	9	10

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SUMMARY: ANTIPSYCHOTICS IN DEMENTIA

- ✗ Not a first line option
- ⚠ Is the behavior profoundly distressing, potentially dangerous?
- 🔄 Have other alternatives been tried?
- 💊 Disclose Health Canada/FDA warnings prior to prescribing
- 👥 State the numbers as they are
- ⚠ Mention that this is an off label use
- ✓ Document the above

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 Document the actual behavior you are treating

 Often helpful to do a Cohen Mansfield Inventory or Neuropsychiatric Inventory

 Follow this by a Dementia Observation Scale

 Treat with the intervention

 Titrate to an effective dose

 Repeat DOS

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR PHARMACOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT

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HOW TO STOP OR DECREASE MEDICATIONS WHEN STABLE

 Is behavior stable after 3-4 months on an antipsychotic, attempt a small decrease per week eg: 25 mg of Quetiapine, 1.25 of Olanzapine, 0.25 or Risperidone

 Continue to monitor behavior closely with care-partner

 If behaviors resume, hold at the last most effective dose

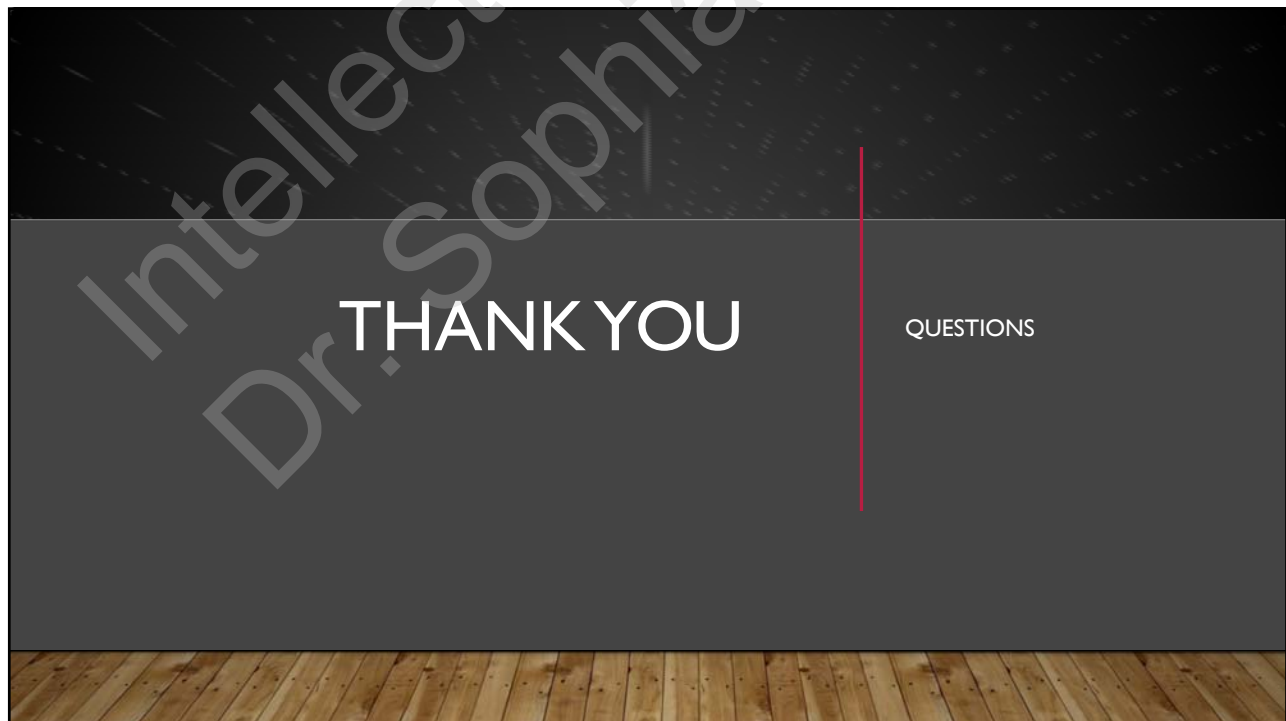
 Try again after 3 months

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