

Care and Treatment of Persons Who Lack Capacity

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- Overview of Dementia
- Mental Capacity Act
- Challenges in dementia
- Care and treatment of people with dementia who lack capacity

Dementia

- Group of diseases which result in:
 - Memory impairment
 - Difficulties with:
 - Language
 - Complex tasks
 - Recognition
 - Executive dysfunction
 - Judgement
 - Planning, abstract thinking
- Functional decline
- Decline from a previous level of functioning
- Exclude delirium

Dementia

- Cognitive symptoms
- Functional problems
 - Social, occupational, activities of daily living
- Behavioural symptoms
 - Behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD)

Types of Dementia

- Alzheimer's Disease
- Vascular Dementia (related to strokes)
- Mixed
- Others
 - Alcohol
 - Post head injury
 - Parkinsons
 - etc

Clinical features of AD

Mild stage of AD (MMSE 21-23)

| IMPAIRMENT | | |
|--|--|--|
| Cognition | Function | Behavior |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Recall/ learning •Word finding •Problem solving •Judgement •Calculation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Work •Money/ shopping •Cooking •Housekeeping •Reading •Writing •Hobbies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Apathy •Withdrawal •Depression •Irritability |

Adapted from Galasko, 1997

Clinical features of AD

Moderate stage of AD (MMSE 10-20)

IMPAIRMENT

| Cognition | Function | Behavior |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Recent memory (remote memory less affected) •Language (names, paraphasias) •Insight •Orientation •Visuospatial ability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •IADL loss •Misplacing objects •Getting lost •Difficulty dressing sequence and selection) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Delusions •Depression •Wandering •Insomnia •Agitation •Social skills unaffected |

Adapted from Galasko, 1997

Clinical features of AD

Severe stage of AD (MMSE <10)

IMPAIRMENT

| Cognition | Function | Behavior |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Attention •Difficulty performing familiar activities •Language (phrases, mutism) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Basic ADLs impaired -Dressing -Grooming -Bathing -Eating -Continence -Walking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Agitation - Verbal - Physical •Insomnia |

Adapted from Galasko, 1997

Assessment

- Make an accurate diagnosis
- Exclude treatable causes of dementia
 - E.g. tumors, infections, deficiencies etc
- Management
 - Cognitive symptoms
 - Behavioural and psychological symptoms
 - Psychosocial interventions
 - Care arrangements- home, day care, NH
 - Caregiver support

Mental Capacity Act

5.—(1) For the purposes of section 4, a person is unable to make a decision for himself if he is unable —

- (a) to **understand** the information relevant to the decision;
- (b) to **retain** that information;
- (c) to **use or weigh** that information as part of the process of making the decision; or
- (d) to **communicate** his decision (whether by talking, using sign language or any other means).

Persons who lack capacity

- Legal issues
 - Contracts
 - Lasting Power of Attorney
 - Wills

Mental Capacity Act

(5) An act done, or decision made, under this Act for or on behalf of a

person who lacks capacity must be done, or made, in **his best interests**.

- permit and encourage the person to participate, or to improve his ability to participate, as fully as possible in any act done for him and any decision affecting him.
- Where the determination relates to life-sustaining treatment he must not, in considering whether the treatment is in the best interests of the person concerned, be motivated by a desire to bring about his death

Mental Capacity Act

Consider

- (a) the **person's past and present** wishes and feelings
- (b) the beliefs and values that would be likely to influence his decision if he had capacity; and
- (c) the other factors that he would be likely to consider if he were able to do so.

Take into account the views:

- (a) of **anyone named by the person** as someone to be consulted on the matter in question or on matters of that kind;
- (b) **anyone engaged in caring for the person** or interested in his welfare;
- (c) any **donee** of a lasting power of attorney granted by the person;
- (d) any **deputy** appointed for the person by the court,

Persons who lack capacity

- In his best interests
 - Maintain
 - Autonomy
 - Choice
 - Good clinical care
 - Quality of life
 - Well-being
 - Enjoyment
 - Identify
 - Occupation
 - Inclusion

Persons who lack capacity

- Challenges
 - Assessment
 - Refusal to see doctors
 - Treatment
 - Medication
 - Behavioural treatment
 - Care arrangements
 - Where and with whom
 - Day care
 - Research

Dementia

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Common Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia

- Apathy
- Disinhibition
- Negativism
- Aggression
- Agitation
- Wandering
- Sleeplessness
- Anxiety
- Depressive mood
- Misidentifications
- Hallucinations
- Delusions



- Maintain
 - Autonomy
 - Choice
 - Well-being
 - Enjoyment
 - Identify
 - Occupation
 - Inclusion
- Good clinical care
 - Refusal to medical assessment / treatment
 - Refuse to go for day care
- Activities
 - Risk

<http://alz.org.sg/>



Dementia
Helpline
6377 0700

- Information about Dementia
- Caregiver support, counselling, training
- Dementia Day Care
- Person Centred Care training