

Noise environment and dementia: attitude and perception of bedside carers in Nursing Homes. Large scale survey in Flanders.

Abstract

Purpose

To gain insight in the attitudes of caregivers regarding the noise environment in Nursing Homes (NH) and their view on the influence of noise on persons with dementia (PwD) and the Behavioral and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD).

Method

An online survey was sent to NH in Flanders, addressed to bedside caregivers (n=206).

Results

The noise environment is considered as a factor influencing BPSD; verbal (98%) and nonverbal (91%) noise produced by other residents, loud noises (91%), repetitive noises (83%) and quiet noises like whispering (60%). Fifty percent of the caregivers try to minimize the background noise often to always during their workdays, particularly the use of television (73%) and radio (78%). While 78% states that (some) PwD need a calmer noise environment than the other residents, 55% believes that – besides e.g. music therapy - the noise environment can support care for PwD with BPSD.

Conclusions

Although caregivers are aware that the noise environment influences BPSD, there is still room for improvement such as raising the awareness for noise (minimalizing background noise, using the noise environment to support care).