

Critical Review:

In elderly individuals experiencing dementia, can music at mealtimes reduce agitation?

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This critical review examines the efficacy of music in reducing agitation during mealtimes in elderly individuals experiencing dementia. Four articles were included in this review: two

Search Strategy

Articles related to the topic of interest were found by searching the following computerized databases: PubMed, SCOPUS, and CINAHL. Keywords used for the database search were as follows: (music) AND (mealtime) AND (dementia). Reference lists of articles were manually searched for additional studies relevant to this critical review.

Selection Criteria

Studies were included if they had any mealtime intervention with music, conducted in the care home setting aimed at improving dementia-related behaviors (such as agitation, aggression, or hiding and hoarding behaviors). Studies were also limited to those that included residents in long-term care or nursing facilities with a suspected diagnosis of dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Primary research was included and no limits were set on publication date or geographical location of participants. Only studies published in English were included.

Data Collection

The literature search revealed four articles that aligned with the selection criteria. Articles consisted of two single group repeated measure designs, one pre-posttest design and one systematic review.

Results

Single group repeated measure

Denney, Ann (1997) conducted a single group repeated measure time series with baseline behaviour incidence scoring, followed by introduction, withdrawal, and reinstatement of treatment. The repeated tests were intended to add rigor to the design. Nine participants ranging in age from 65 to 84 years old ($M=74.8$, $SD=6.4$) were recruited. Two thirds of the sample were females. None evidenced hearing loss, but all had significant language impairments. All subjects had a physician-

Systematic Review

Whear, Rebecca, Rebecca Abbott, Jo Thompson-Coon, Alison Bethel, Morwenna Rogers, Anthony Hemsley, Will Stahl-Timmins, and Ken Stein (2014). The author's objective for this systematic review was to examine the effectiveness of mealtime interventions aimed at improving behavioural symptoms in elderly people living with dementia in residential care. Fifteen databases were searched from inception to November 2012 including OpenGrey. The electronic searches found a total of 6118 results; of these 97 full text were retrieved

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