

Do communication breakdowns impact caregiver burden of informal caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's Dementia?

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The present study critically evaluates the literature regarding the impact of communication breakdowns on caregiver (CG) burden of informal caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's Dementia (AD). The study includes four single-group case studies with qualitative survey research. Results provide a somewhat suggestive relationship between communication breakdowns and informal caregiver burden. Further research is necessary to establish the extent of impact. As the number of individuals with AD increases, there will be an increasing need for clinicians to provide education and training for effective communication strategies to not only reduce CG burden but also improve kinship status and quality of life of persons with AD and their friends and family.

I d c i

Alzheimer's dementia (AD) is the most common form of dementia, accounting for 60-80% of all dementia cases. (Alzheimer's Association and the National Alliance for Caregiving, 2004). One of the major sources of dependency and substantial burden for informal caregivers (CG) of individuals with AD are communication difficulties. (Hendryx-Bedalov,

