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Poster Abstract

A Comparative Analysis of Comprehensive Geriatric Assessments for Nursing Home Residents Receiving Palliative Care: a Systematic Review

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Abstract

Background: Nursing homes become important locations for palliative care. By means of comprehensive geriatric assessments (CGAs), an evaluation can be made of the different palliative care needs of nursing home residents. This review aims to identify all CGAs that can be used to assess palliative care needs in long-term care settings and that have been validated for nursing home residents receiving palliative care. The CGAs are evaluated in terms of psychometric properties and content comprehensiveness.

Study population: Nursing home residents with palliative care needs.

Methods: A systematic literature search in electronic databases MEDLINE, Web of Science, EMBASE, Cochrane, CINAHL and PsycInfo was conducted for the years 1990 to 2012.

Psychometric data on validity and reliability were extracted from the articles. The content comprehensiveness of the identified CGAs was analyzed, using the 13 domains for a palliative approach in residential aged care of the Australian Department of Health and Ageing (AGDHA).

Results: A total of 1368 articles were identified. Seven studies met our inclusion criteria, describing five different CGAs that have been validated for nursing home residents with palliative care needs. All CGAs demonstrate moderate to high psychometric properties. The interRAI PC covers 12 of the 13 domains for a palliative approach in residential aged care of the AGDHA. The MQLS covers eight domains. All other CGAs cover six domains or less.

Conclusions: The interRAI PC and the MQLS are considered to be the most comprehensive CGAs to evaluate the needs and preferences of nursing home residents receiving palliative care. Future research should aim to examine the effectiveness of the identified CGAs and to further validate the CGAs for nursing home residents with palliative care needs.

Keywords

comprehensive geriatric assessments, palliative care, nursing homes, older adults

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