

BEST MEDICAL PRACTICES: UNDERSTANDING PERSPECTIVES OF A LOST IDENTITY IN DEMENTIA CARE

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This session identifies common misconceptions about identity and thought processes for persons living with Alzheimer's disease and related to dementias. Beyond diagnostic brain imaging and neurocognitive testing scales, case studies and research from around the United States highlights persons with dementia by utilising expressive arts therapy techniques as a way to examine diagnosis, assessment and treatment interventions from a person centered approach. From prodromal mild cognitive impairment to late stage Alzheimer's, consciousness seems to remain intact despite neural death. In addition, this session aims to alter the perceptions of how persons living with dementia are perceived by the medical community, with reliance in lessening psychotropic drug usage, discouraging poor spending allocations and establishing meaningful care. From Alzheimer's clinical research trials to expressive art therapies, the importance of why the arts and sciences are needed is demonstrated to enhance quality of life and well-being for those living with neurocognitive impairments, and ways in which to establish a better medical model practice.

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