

June 21-22, 2018
Paris, FranceSacramento Pinazo-Hernandis et al., J Nurs Health Stud 2018, Volume: 3
DOI: 10.21767/2574-2825-C3-009

BEHAVIORAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SYMPTOMS OF DEMENTIA MANAGEMENT IN NURSING HOMES : RESULTS FROM A TRAINING PROGRAM

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Behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia exacerbate the suffering of the person with cognitive impairment and their social and family environment, being to this day one of the leading causes of institutionalization of an elderly person. Every day, more professionals emphasize the importance of non-pharmacological methods as first-line treatment to intervene in this type of behavior disorders. However, when working in a residential area, one of the problems we usually find in applying such methods is that most professionals of the institution have little training in behavioral disturbances and such kind of interventions. A training project was launched for direct care professionals (nurses) in SPCD management in residential settings.

The design of the training program was based on the main theoretical and practical aspects to intervene on the most prevalent behavioral alterations in residential settings. The training was divided into three sessions of two hours each.

The project has been given over three years to a total of 173 people in 14 different centers. Pre and post intervention results are discussed

Keywords- Dementia. Training needs. Behavioral disturbances Nursing homes. Professional carers

Biography

Sacramento Pinazo-Hernandis (PhD), is professor in Social Psychology Department at University of Valencia. She is a trainer of professionals who work in the field of care for the elderly. She is Vicepresident of Spanish Society of Gerontology and Geriatrics

Carolina Pinazo-Clapés is a doctoral student at University of Valencia. She is developing her doctoral thesis in the field of the care of elderly people, specifically in the management of behavioral problems

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