How to Assess the Danger in Community-Dwelling Older Adults?

REFERENCE

Plamondon, L., Lauzon, S., Rapin, C.-H., & Bourdeau, M. (2006). How to Assess the Danger in Community-Dwelling Older Adults. *Vie et Vieillissement, 5*(2), 29-38.

TEXT TYPE

Format: Scientific article
Content: Tool validation

DISCUSSED THEMES

Risk factors, vulnerability factors, profile of the abused person, authors of the abuse, screening, burden and stress.

GOAL OR RESEARCH QUESTION

The objective of this study is to validate the relevance of variables from the literature on abuse in order to develop a screening test that could be used to assess the degree of risk to which is exposed an older person.

PROBLEM

The *Tool for Screening and Intervention with elderly Victims* (Outil de Dépistage et d'Intervention des Victimes Aîné(e)s - ODIVA) aims to assess the danger or risk of abuse among seniors. However, this tool must be validated before being made available to the public.

METHODOLOGY

The study took place in 2000-2002 within the Home Services (Services à domicile - SAD) of the Canton of Vaud in Switzerland. Practitioners randomly selected (accidental sample type) and representing all functions SAD were asked to write a case report of a situation of abuse or neglect. Next, participants completed the ODIVA test in connection with the case report. A total of 196 cases of abuse have been identified and analyzed in this way. The prevalence of variables from the literature was studied using four categories: victim profile, the behavior of victims, abuser profile and the behavior of abusers.

RESULTS

The first four variables in each category can be found in 40% of cases of abuse, which suggests that the presence of these variables indicates a fairly high risk of danger. Furthermore, in over 60% of cases, four variables per category are present. Thus, a danger threshold could be established when four elements were present in each category. The whole set of variables is present in more than 9% of cases of abuse studied, confirming their relevance. It is by establishing a numerical value for each variable in proportion with the frequency of the results that the first version of OVIDA test was constructed value.

DISCUSSION

The discussion is integrated in the results Section above.

CONCLUSION

Scores established by this test are used to identify older adults at risk of abuse. They also allow distinguishing the degree of risk, whether weak or strong. This test could be used in a study of the prevalence of abuse in the SAD.

AVENUES FOR PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

Pursuing this research project could help to determine the predictive value of the variables, in order to verify the possibility of identifying a suspected abusive situation thanks to the prevalence of specific variables. In addition, data collection is ongoing and aims to reach a total of 450 cases at the end of 2006 in order to distinguish profiles that indicate danger depending on the sex of the victim.

DRAFTING DATE

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