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Negative Impact and Positive Value of Caregiving in Spouse Carers of Persons With Dementia in Sweden

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instruments were administered and interviews conducted. Usability ratings averaged 84%. Knowledge and self-efficacy gains exceeded those of the R01, with a 35% increase in correct responses on knowledge items, versus 18% for the R01 subjects; and increase in perceived decisional self-efficacy of 31% versus 30% for the R01 subjects. Qualitative feedback was universally positive. These findings confirm the feasibility of the self-guided multimedia approach to delivery of the program. A large RCT is planned which, if successful, will support wide dissemination to AA caregivers in need.

HOME-VISIT INTERVENTION TO REDUCE STRESS OF UNDERSERVED FAMILY CAREGIVERS FOR PERSONS WITH DEMENTIA

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Immigrant family caregivers for persons living with dementia (PWD) have constant stress due to the 24/7 responsibility. These family caregivers of PWD often have high morbidity and mortality. We provided a cultural and language specific home-visit intervention for these vulnerable family caregivers. There is a lack of an objective measure of stress for caregivers. We assessed caregivers' stress by measuring heart rate variability (HRV), a physiological measure of stress, using a smartwatch for a one-month intervention. Weekly home visits for a month were provided to dementia family caregivers by trained community health workers with stress reduction techniques: mindful breathing and compassionate listening. Linear mixed-effect models were used to analyze the trends for the daily stress levels as measured by HRV from the smartwatch. We had 22 participants who completed the 4-week intervention (8 Latinos, 8 Koreans, 6 Vietnamese). The models showed a significant decrease in the stress level of all participants for 3 weeks (all Ps<0.01). At 28 days (4 weeks) all three groups showed a decrease in stress: Korean group (Beta= -0.405, P<0.001), Vietnamese group (Beta = -0.150, P=0.028), Latino group (Beta = -0.154, P=0.073) and all caregivers (Beta = -0.235, P< 0.001). The findings demonstrated a reduction of immigrant family caregiver stress with a home-visit weekly intervention for one month using mindful breathing and compassionate listening by culturally/linguistically appropriate community health workers. Large-scale studies to determine long-term outcomes of family dementia caregivers are necessary and should be carried out.

NEGATIVE IMPACT AND POSITIVE VALUE OF CAREGIVING IN SPOUSE CARERS OF PERSONS WITH DEMENTIA IN SWEDEN

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As welfare providers struggle to meet the care needs of persons with dementia (PwDs), most of their needs are being met by a family carers, most often a spouse. The situation for spouse carers is unique, e.g., with grief, loneliness and loss of intimacy combining with stress and poor health. Research is needed to develop adequate support for spouse carers based on evidence of what influences negative and positive outcomes of care. The present study investigated psychosocial correlates of spouse carers' (i) negative impact and (ii) positive value of caring. Data from a cross-sectional survey of 165 spouse carers community-resident in Sweden was analysed in two hierarchical regression models to predict negative impact and positive value of caring. Results found that negative impact and positive value were explained by different variables, significant predictors for negative impact included carer stress, health, and emotional loneliness, and change in intimacy with the care-recipient, while positive value was predicted by mutuality, change in closeness to the care-recipient and quality of support. Negative impact and positive value shared variance of only 17.2%. Thus, negative impact and positive value represent different aspects of the carer situation. Consequently, support needs to target several aspects in carers' life, aiming to; facilitate for spouses to manage PwD's impairment, increase emotional support while also strengthening the relationship between carer and PwD to reduce negative impact while increasing positive value.

PERCEPTIONS OF FAMILY CAREGIVERS OF PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA REGARDING SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Nearly 98% of older adults with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) experience behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD). Although BPSD are linked to caregiver burden, perceptions of family caregivers on the impact of BPSD and their experiences addressing them in the home are unclear, and little is known about the impact of the pandemic on these experiences. Study aims were to explore: 1) the experiences of family caregivers of community dwelling older adults with ADRD regarding BPSD and how they manage BPSD in the home, and 2) how the pandemic impacted family caregivers' experiences, BPSD of their relatives, and BPSD management. A qualitative, exploratory approach was used; 21 family caregivers were interviewed virtually. Content analysis and constant comparative methods were used. Ten major themes emerged: 1) Emotional and psychological responses of caregiver, 2) Loss, 3) Anticipation, 4) Reliance, 5) Learning to caregive, 6) Rewarding, 7) Emotional and psychological responses of care recipient 8) Cognition of care recipient, 9) Care strategies, 10) Caregiver perspectives. Caregivers did not use terms "behaviors" or "symptoms", instead they described their relatives' and their own experiences interdependently. Caregiving challenges presented before the pandemic (e.g. equivocal effects of medications, increasing care demands), many of which were compounded by the pandemic. Future research should explore the experiences of caregivers from a range of backgrounds. Findings illustrate communication barriers exist between clinicians, community services, people