

Adult/Geriatric Critical Thinking Worksheet

<p>1. Disease Process & Brief Pathophysiology- Alzheimer's Disease is a common type of dementia that is progressive. The disease begins with a mild memory loss leading to loss of the ability to carry on a conversation and respond to the environment. The disease involves parts of the brain that control thought, memory, and language and can seriously affect a person's ability to carry out daily activities. The brain lesions are neurofibrillary tangles and neuritic plaques that take up space in the brain, replacing normal tissue in the bell body of the neuron.</p>	<p>2. Factors for the Development of the Disease/Acute Illness-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genetic transmission • A decrease in acetylcholine • Beta-amyloid activity • Impact of head injury • Mini stroke • Lack of estrogen • Immunological factors • Effects of slow-acting virus • Environmental factors • Increasing age- 65 and older (P) 	<p>3. Signs and Symptoms-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less interest in work and social activities (P) • Loss of recent memories (P) • Language problems- putting thoughts into words or understanding others (P) • Mild coordination problems • Difficulty with everyday tasks (P) • Mood swings that involve depression (P) • Getting lost in familiar routes • Confusion with time and place (P) • Getting upset or angry easily (P)
<p>4. Diagnostic Tests pertinent or confirming of diagnosis-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) • Computerized tomography (CT) • Positron emission tomography (PET) • Focused neurological assessment (P) • Functional assessment staging tool (FAST) 	<p>5. Lab Values that may be affected-</p> <p>No laboratory tests available that can determine whether or not a person has Alzheimer's disease</p>	<p>6. Current Treatment-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current approaches focus on helping patients maintain mental function, manage behavioral symptoms, and slow down the symptoms of disease • Cholinesterase inhibitors (galantamine, rivastigmine, and donepezil) • N-methyl D-aspirate (NMDA) antagonist (memantine) • Aricept • Exelon patch • Namzaric

<p>7. Focused Nursing Diagnosis: Potential for Injury</p>	<p>11. Nursing Interventions related to the Nursing Diagnosis in #7:</p> <p>1. I will eliminate or minimize identified environmental risks.</p>	<p>12. Patient Teaching:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I will educate the patient on the importance of maintaining a healthy diet and to remain hydrated. 2. I will instruct the patient and husband that giving her guided activities with minimal challenge can help keep mind active and can incorporate a sense of accomplishment 3. I will instruct patient's husband to keep and maintain a routine schedule to help maintain an awareness of time of day to offer a sense of security and reality.
<p>8. Related to (r/t): New onset of being combative</p>	<p>Evidenced Based Practice:</p> <p>2. I will stay with patient when she starts to show signs of agitation and ask her to talk about her grandson, Ty. E/B Using a distraction will redirect a patient's behavior and help maintain safety.</p>	
<p>9. As evidenced by (aeb): Physical and mental status changes</p>	<p>Evidenced Based Practice:</p> <p>3. I will routinely monitor the patient's behavior and initiate interventions to prevent negative behaviors</p>	<p>13. Discharge Planning/Community Resources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide resources (i.e,therapy for counseling for families, support groups) 2. Arrange for home health equipment 3. Provide referral services to recommend home care professionals
<p>10. Desired patient outcome: The patient remains free of trauma/injury by time of discharge on 11/4/2020 @ 1500.</p>	<p>Evidenced Based Practice:</p>	

National Institute on Aging. (2000). *How Is Alzheimer's Disease Treated?* National Institute on Aging. <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/how-alzheimers-disease-treated>

Swearingen, P. L., & D, J. (2019). *All-in-one nursing care planning resource : medical-surgical, pediatric, maternity, and psychiatric-mental health*. Elsevier.

What is Alzheimer's Disease? (2018). CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/aging/aginginfo/alzheimers.htm>