

Nathaly Hiciano

Dr. Stephen Maret, Professor & Department Chair

PSY 342: Psychopathology (OA) - Spring 2023

Chapter Fifteen

04/27/2023

20. Psychological problems of the elderly can be divided into two groups. Discuss the two groups of disorders and explain how disorders that occur in persons of all ages are different when they occur in the elderly.

The most common mental and neurological disorders in this age group are dementia and depression, which affect approximately 5% and 7% of the world's older population, respectively. In this case, according to experts, dementia is a syndrome, usually of a chronic or progressive nature, in which there is deterioration in memory, thinking, behavior and the ability to perform everyday activities. The same studies estimated that 50 million people worldwide are living with dementia with nearly 60% living in low- and middle-income countries. Also, they illustrated that the total number of people with dementia is projected to increase to 82 million in 2030 and 152 million in 2050. Moreover, physical, emotional and economic pressures can cause great stress to families and carers and can be one factor.

On the other hand, depression can cause great suffering and leads to difficult dysfunctioning in daily life. Experts say that unipolar depression occurs in 7% of the general older population and it accounts for 5.7% of YLDs among those over 60 years old. Also, symptoms are often overlooked and untreated because they occur with other factors in that age. In the same hand, older people with depressive symptoms have poorer functioning compared to

those with chronic medical conditions such as lung disease, hypertension or diabetes. Depression also increases the perception of poor health, and lack of care.

Also, symptoms are often overlooked and untreated because they occur with other factors in that age. In the same hand, older people with depressive symptoms have poorer functioning compared to those with chronic medical conditions such as lung disease, hypertension or diabetes. Depression also increases the perception of poor health, and lack of care.

It is important to prepare health providers and societies to meet the specific needs of older populations, including: To improve the services for the elderly, experts pointed out that training for health professionals in providing care for older people. Can be preventing and managing age-associated chronic diseases including mental, neurological and substance use disorders. Other aspects are designing sustainable policies on long-term and palliative care and more.

21. Define delirium. Then, using the DSM-5 checklist, list the criteria for a delirium diagnosis. Finally, define neurocognitive disorder and list the criteria used to make a diagnosis of neurocognitive disorder due to Alzheimer's disease.

Delirium is a serious disturbance in mental abilities that results in confused thinking and reduced awareness of surroundings. A study from the American Psychiatric Association, in DSM-5, criterion A for delirium: reduced ability to direct, focus, sustain, and shift attention and reduced orientation to the environment” could be unclear. The criteria equated “awareness” to “reduced orientation to the environment”; In addition, it uses the term “disorientation” which already appears as one of the “additional disturbances in cognition” in criteria To clarify the meaning, the parenthesized phrase “reduced orientation to the environment” was removed, and

the second half of the study was changed to “accompanied by reduced awareness of the environment.”

Neurocognitive disorder is a general term referring to mental functions that are declining due to a medical disease other than a psychiatric illness. On the other hand, dementia; Also known as major neurocognitive disorder, is not a disease, but a group of symptoms that are associated with a decline in thinking, reasoning, and/or remembering. Experts pointed out that Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia, but it is only one of many possible causes. Also, vascular cognitive impairment, dementia with Lewy bodies, frontotemporal dementia, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, HIV, traumatic brain injury, and other conditions each can cause dementia play a role to diagnose it.

Based on the neurocognitive disorder, different causes that experts also pointed out are: Based on brain injury caused by trauma: Bleeding into the brain (intracerebral hemorrhage). Second, breathing conditions: Low oxygen in the body (hypoxia). High carbon dioxide level in the body (hypercapnia). Third, cardiovascular disorders: Dementia due to many strokes (multi-infarct dementia). Fourth, DEGENERATIVE DISORDERS, as I said before. Fifth, drug and alcohol-related conditions: Alcohol withdrawal state and intoxication from drug or alcohol use. There are other more...

22. Trace the common pattern of development of Alzheimer's from its initial stage until the person's death.

Based on study I could recognize that pattern of memory loss in Alzheimer's. Memory loss is the key symptom of Alzheimer's disease. The early signs include difficulty remembering recent events or conversations. However, memory gets worse and other symptoms develop as the

disease progresses. At first, someone with the disease may be aware of having trouble remembering things and thinking clearly. But, the memory leak will definitely get worse.

In the same way this disease shows its in its different stages, such as: in Pre-symptomatic: The physical conditions related to Alzheimer's disease exist in a person's body long before the symptoms are evident. State-of-the-art equipment is being developed to detect subtle signs of Alzheimer's disease before noticeable memory loss occurs. In the Mild (Stage 1): study says "memory loss and difficulty learning, first-stage Alzheimer's disease may cause a loss of energy and spontaneity, as well as mood swings, confusion, trouble communicating, and difficulty organizing." On the Moderate (Stage 2): "Alzheimer's disease, the patient begins to need help carrying out anything but simple tasks." You may lose personal history, as well as in speaking, reading, writing, dressing, and sleeping. In Severe (Stage 3): "brings full-blown disability, with possible loss of the ability to feed oneself, to speak, to recognize people, and to control bodily functions." Due to these causes, both the mind and the body are weak and vulnerable and may develop other respiratory problems, especially for those confined to bed. In other words, the pattern is clear and can be applied to memory loss and other cognitive abilities that interfere with daily life.

24. Explain the effectiveness of drug treatment for those with Alzheimer's disease.

Experts say that donepezil, galantamine and rivastigmine can be prescribed for people with early or intermediate-stage Alzheimer's disease. Experts say that donepezil, galantamine and rivastigmine can be prescribed for people with early or intermediate-stage Alzheimer's disease. Donepezil is used to treat dementia (a brain disorder that affects the ability to remember, think clearly, communicate, and perform daily activities, and can cause changes in mood and personality). Some of the side effects include dizziness and drowsiness, mainly at the beginning

of treatment or when increasing the dose. On the other hand, Galantamine is like support to Alzheimer's disease. "Galantamine will not cure Alzheimer's disease and it will not prevent the disease from getting worse. However, galantamine may improve thinking ability in some patients with Alzheimer's disease." May cause stomach or intestinal problems. Check with your doctor right away if you have nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, loss of appetite, or weight loss. And lastly, rivastigmine is in a class of medications called cholinesterase inhibitors. It improves mental function (such as memory and thoughts) by increasing the amount of a natural substance produced in the brain. Rivastigmine may cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, loss of appetite, or weight loss. Tell your doctor if any of these problems are severe because they could cause other health problems such as dehydration. However, stomach-related effects are the most common rivastigmine side effects.

Sources:

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/mental-health-of-older-adults#:~:text=The%20most%20common%20mental%20and,the%20world's%20older%20population%2C%20respectively.>

<https://www.psychiatry.org/File%20Library/Psychiatrists/Practice/DSM/DSM-5-TR/APA-DSM5-TR-Delirium.pdf>

[https://www.brightfocus.org/alzheimers/article/alzheimers-and-dementia-whats-difference#:~:text=Dementia%20\(also%20known%20as%20major,reasoning%2C%20and%20For%20remembering.](https://www.brightfocus.org/alzheimers/article/alzheimers-and-dementia-whats-difference#:~:text=Dementia%20(also%20known%20as%20major,reasoning%2C%20and%20For%20remembering.)

<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001401.htm>

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/alzheimers-disease/symptoms-causes/syc-20350447#:~:text=Memory%20loss%20is%20the%20key,remembering%20things%20and%20thinking%20clearly.>

https://www.brightfocus.org/alzheimers/article/frequently-asked-questions-about-alzheimers-disease?gad=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwuqiiBhBtEiwATgvixOhRJqqg1OadGSDjTle_zXWK-JgTHggr-OGP8ebOATeZ6cMzucCz1hoC0xgQAvD_BwE

<https://www.alz.org/alzheimer-demencia/que-es-la-enfermedad-de-alzheimer>

https://www-mayoclinic-org.translate.google.com/drugs-supplements/galantamine-oral-route/side-effects/drg-20067458?p=1&_x_tr_sl=en&_x_tr_tl=es&_x_tr_hl=es&_x_tr_pto=rq#:~:text=Galantamine%20may%20cause%20stomach%20or,get%20emergency%20help%20at%20once.

<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/druginfo/meds/a602009-es.html#:~:text=La%20rivastigmina%20pertenece%20a%20una,natural%20producida%20en%20el%20cerebro.>