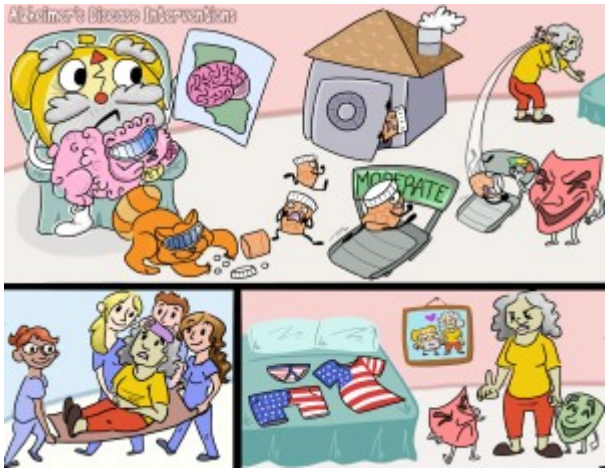
Alzheimer's Disease Interventions

Dementia is a progressive deterioration of cognitive functioning and global impairment of the intellect. Alzheimer’s disease (AD) is one of the most common forms of dementia characterized by neuronal degeneration and brain cell death. There is no cure for Alzheimer’s disease and the interventions are aimed to decrease the progression and severity of symptoms.



PLAY PICMONIC

Diagnostic Tests

PET Scan and CT
PET Scanner and Cat Scanner
There is no definitive diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease while the patient is living; however, brain atrophy is often present in computed tomography (CT scans) and positron emission tomography (PET) scan. It is important to remember that brain atrophy is present in most types of dementia.

Mini-Mental State Examination
Mental State Exam
The MMSE is a series of 30 questions that acts as a screening tool for the current mental state of the patient. Less than 9 points indicates severe impairment; 10-18 points indicates moderate impairment; 18-24 indicates mild impairment; 25-30 points is indicative of normal cognitive function.

Interventions

Drug Therapy
Med-bottle
Drug therapy for this disorder includes medications that manage symptoms, as there is no cure. Medications such as donepezil (Aricept) and memantine (Namenda) decrease the progression of the disease. Antidepressants and antianxiety medications are indicated as many patients become depressed and anxious as they lose their independence.

Safe Environment
Safe-house
Encourage a safe environment for these patients based on the stage of their disease. Provide consistent routines and frequent reorientation to minimize confusion.

Moderate Exercise
Moderate Treadmill
Moderate exercise is helpful for individuals as it increases personal health and improves muscle tone.

Behavioral Modification
Behavioral-mask Modified
These patients are often confused and disoriented, especially in the later stages of the disease. Providing simple, easy-to-follow daily routines and reinforcing reality orientation are important.

Assistance with Functional Independence
Assisting with Independance-day clothing
Care is aimed to maintain the patient’s independence and ability to complete activities of daily living. Maintaining independence increases self-esteem and promotes overall health, preventing depression.

Sign up for FREE at picmonic.com

Assistance and Support for Caregiver

Support-group for Caregiver

Caregivers are often overwhelmed in the care of a patient with severe dementia. Providing a consistent caregiver decreases confusion and anxiety in confused patients. Discuss problems that may arise during the care of these patients, including night wandering, aggressiveness, and a possible inability to recognize family members.

Sign up for FREE at picmonic.com