Project to Ameliorate Cognitive Function Deterioration in Day Care Dementia Patients

Jin-Lan Lin¹ • Yu-Ling Tzeng²*

¹RN, MSN, Head Nursing, Department of Community Health Center, Buddhist Tzu Chi General Hospital & Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Nursing, Tzu Chi University; ²RN, Department of Day Care Ward, Buddhist Tzu Chi General Hospital.

Abstract

Background & problems: Deterioration of cognitive functions, including disorientation related to people, time and place, loss of memory, and deterioration in interpersonal skills, is very common in dementia patients. Expense of care rises as conditions worsen.

Purpose: The authors designed this project to ameliorate the deterioration of cognitive functions and enhance cognition in daily life.

Solution: The project was carried out between Jan 1, 2007 and June 30, 2007. The three strategies used included: (1) educating staff and establishing care guidelines; (2) introducing environmental keys such as a reality-oriented board, clock information, photo labels, and image signs; (3) redesigning and implementing daily activities.

Results: Following the intervention, average cognitive functions improved from 6.58 ± 3.19 to 5.11 ± 3.20 (total: 10). The mistaken recognition rate for items including the toilet, personal bed, clothes closet, meal seating position and time decreased from 38% to 13%.

Conclusion: This project significantly improved cognitive function and recognition in dementia patients. The experience described within may serve as a reference for dementia institutions and healthcare workers.

Key Words: day care, dementia, cognitive function.

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*Address correspondence to: Jin-Lan Lin, No. 707, Chung-Yang Rd. Sec. 3., Hualien 97002, Taiwan, ROC.
Tel: +886 (3) 856-1825 ext. 2109; E-mail: Line@tzuchi.com.tw