Dementia-Friendly Acute Care: A Green Channel for Dementia Care Home Residents

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Background

- Coordination and integration of medical and care resources in VAC system
- Establishment of dementia education, research and care center at Jia-Li Veterans Home
Geographic location

Jia-Li VH

Tainan branch

Kaohsiung VGH
Dementia care spectrum

Accurate **diagnosis** and use of anti-dementia agent

**Chronic care**-
1. slowing down mental decline
2. prevention of acute hospitalization
3. prevention of functional disability

**Acute care**-
- green channel,
- multidisciplinary care-

**Intermediate care**-

**Hospice care**-
Dementia-friendly care in diagnosis

- Neuropsychological battery- MMSE, CASI, CDR
- Evaluation of BPSD- Neuropsychiatric Inventory (NPI)
- Neuroimaging
- Laboratory study
- A total of 46 home residents
- Mild : 22 (mean age : 85.0 Y/O)
- moderate to severe: 24 (mean age : 85.8 Y/O)
- M/F: 42/4
Common causes and risk factors of acute hospitalization in Alzheimer’s disease

**Common causes –**
- Behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD)
- Syncope and collapse
- Fall
- Ischemic heart disease
- Infections: pneumonia, UTI
- Gastrointestinal disease
- Dehydration
- Acute delirium

**Risk factors–**

- **Non-modifiable:**
  - Older age
  - Male sex

- **Modifiable:**
  - previous hospitalization
  - Polypharmacy
  - Use of psychotrophic agent
  - Higher co-morbidity
  - Loss of ADL
  - NPI score
  - Malnutrition
Dementia-friendly chronic care

Prevention of acute hospitalization
Prevention of functional disability
Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (CGA)

- Multidimensional assessments--
- Medical: co-morbid conditions and disease severity, medications reviews and nutrition status
- Psychological: mood/depression testing
- Functional: ADL, IADL, gait and balance.
- Geriatric syndrome and pain
Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Meeting

- MDT members: neurologist (or geriatrician), psychiatrist, pharmacist, dietitian, special nurse, case manager, physical therapist and occupational therapist.

- Once per month at Jia-Li VH
Non-pharmacological treatment - physical therapy
Non-pharmacological treatment-group art therapy
Non-pharmacological treatment-group music therapy
Dementia-friendly (Green channel) acute care
Medical Condition

Outpatient Clinic → Case manager → Geriatric clinic in KSVGH/Tainan branch

Emergency Room

KSVGH ER → Tainan branch ER → Case manager

Geriatric Ward admission → Combined care in non-geriatric ward
Dementia and elderly friendly environment in acute ward-1

放置時鐘及日曆
光照機
防病患走失門
Dementia and elderly friendly environment in acute ward-2
Dementia and elderly-friendly environment in acute ward-3
Combined care for dementia inpatient- due to GI bleeding

Comprehensive geriatric assessment (CGA) in acute ward

MDT meeting in acute ward
Results

A total of 6 acute hospitalizations in 2012.
2 in KSVGH: acute stroke, aspiration pneumonia
4 in Tainan Branch: 2 fall, 1 CHF, 1 pneumonia
# Dementia-friendly care

## Education and Research

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Conclusions

• Better coordination and integration of medical and care resources in VAC system.
• Establishment of dementia-friendly care model
• Further analysis is needed to examine the cost-effectiveness and outcome