Driving and Dementia Decision Aid: is this a useful resource for health professionals?

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Context of this Study

- Driving and prevalence of dementia
- Health professionals’ role in decisions about fitness to drive

1989: Occupational Therapy Driving assessment
2008: Focus groups with drivers (Master of Science by Research*)
2010: Development and pilot testing of DDDA (UOW & RMS)
2013: RCT: Effect of DDDA on Decisional Conflict (PhD)**
2014: Developing DDDA USA Version (Global Challenges)
2015: Translating use of DDDA into Clinical Practice (UOW & ISLHD)

* Andrew, 2012
** Carmody, 2015
Aim

To explore opinions about the Driving and Dementia Decision Aid (DDDA) as an appropriate resource for use by health professionals.
Objectives

1. Obtain opinion from health practitioners regarding how they support the decisional journey of drivers with dementia and their family carers in clinical practice.

2. Obtain opinion from health practitioners regarding use of the tool for facilitating discussion with drivers who have a recognised dementia, about potential driving retirement.
Literature Review

- Driving - an important ADL (Austroads 2012)
- The difficult discussion (Adler et al 2006, Liddle et al 2008, Freund et al., 2005)
- Fitness to drive - case by case (Australian and New Zealand Society for Geriatric Medicine, 2009, Molnar et al., 2006)
- Myths and misinformation (Austroads 2012, Carmody et al 2012)
- Consumer informed research (Alzheimer’s Australia research paper 2008)
- A paradigm shift (Adler 2010, O’conner & Jacobson 2007)
Method

Setting & Sample: community practitioners (n=33)

Ethics: UOW & NSW Health

Recruitment: via known networks

Mixed method: Data Collection
i. attitude scale
ii. face to face group interviews

Data Analysis
i. descriptive statistics
ii. thematic Analysis
Findings

i. Demographic profile of participants

ii. Descriptive statistics

iii. Emergent themes
Findings: Demographic Profile

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<th>Occupational Therapist</th>
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<th>Years of experience supporting those with dementia</th>
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<th>5 &lt; 10</th>
<th>10 &lt; 20</th>
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Findings: Descriptive Statistics

Those with specialist qualifications (n=5) reported greater confidence in supporting a person with dementia regarding decisions about driving retirement.

45% reported awareness of the DDDA (n=15) and 25% had used it as a clinical practice resource (n=8).

40% reported awareness of other resources (n=13) and 65% had used one or more as a clinical practice resource (n=22).
Findings: Themes

Person centred focus
"I like the way it takes people through the decision making progress – it guides them through with some questions that are not threatening, it is very objective, it is easy to read and hopefully it is not threatening to someone it is about having that conversation and also I think it is a nice tool. A good stepping stone and good starting point.” (Occupational therapist)

Facilitation of purposeful discussion
“It is a very useful tool for us in the community setting because we are often seeing people and they might have had a diagnosis of dementia and as a result of that Geriatrician visit they have been referred to us and we are sort of the first port of call” (Registered Nurse)

Presentation of information
"It is nice it does not have any of the stereotypical comic pictures of people. It is very respectful and very professional which is good rather than being a photocopy of extra paperwork for them. They might take it more seriously to read it if it actually is a proper book.” (Occupational Therapist)
Future Directions

• Dissemination and distribution
• Language translation (CALD)
• New York, USA project
• University of Newcastle, UK
References


Andrew, C, 2012, 'Mapping a road to driving retirement with the driver who has a diagnosis of dementia: Enhancing acceptance of the difficult decisions’, Thesis collection, University of Wollongong, NSW


