

Week 6 Collaboration Café

Treatment of psychosis in dementia can be challenging. Understanding treatment options will assist the Psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP) with appropriate care for clients with neurocognitive disorders. Answer the questions below for your initial post.

1. How does dementia related psychosis differ from other types of psychosis?

- Psychotic symptoms are frequent in neurodegenerative disorders and can be defined as the emergence of psychosis after the onset of dementia, with a predominance of visual hallucinations, and a related absence of more complex delusions and thought disorders. These criteria emphasize the more prominent characteristics of visual hallucinations which are more common in psychosis of neurocognitive disorders compared to the typical auditory hallucinations that are predominantly present in non-dementia related psychosis (Agüera- Ortiz et al., 2022).

2. Differentiate the clinical presentations of psychosis in clients with the four different types of dementia.

- Due to their nature and regardless of the etiology or the age of the individual, psychosis symptoms are generally severe, disruptive, persistent over time with little spontaneously limit (Agüera-Ortiz et al., 2022).

Alzheimer's Dementia (AD)

- One third to one half of individuals with AD will have psychotic symptoms.
- Delusions can be divided into categories of persecutory and misidentification.
- Persecutory delusions are focused on theft, abandonment and jealousy
- Misidentification: is a failure to recognize one's own house (reduplication paramnesia), a belief that someone is living in the house (phantom boarder syndrome), misinterpretation that a loved one is an imposter, or they have changed their appearance. Another belief is that the characters on the TV are actually real and a failure to recognize one-self in the mirror (Agüera-Ortiz et al., 2022).
- Visual hallucinations consist of visions of alive or dead people, objects or animals (Agüera-Ortiz et al., 2022).

Vascular Cognitive Impairment (VCI):

- Second most common type of dementia, caused by Strokes and TIA's mostly American (Agüera-Ortiz et al., 2022).
- 5% of individuals with VCI will experience psychosis (Association,