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The patterns in psychotropic drug prescriptions among older people with dementia

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Propositions accompanying the thesis

The Patterns in Psychotropic Drug Prescriptions among Older People with Dementia

1. Given the increasing prescriptions for antipsychotics and antidepressants in community-dwelling older people with new-onset dementia during the follow-up, general practitioners should be reluctant when prescribing psychotropic drugs. (This thesis)
2. The significant increase in antipsychotic prescriptions before nursing home admission underscores the importance of treating indicative neuropsychiatric symptoms, such as psychoses, agitation, or aggression, as a strategy to facilitate the extended community living of older people with dementia. (This thesis)
3. To enhance the utility of electronic health records in research, it is advisable to document the indications for each prescription.
4. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dutch community-dwelling older people with dementia had higher rates of general practice consultations but lower rates of psychotropic drug prescriptions, suggesting potential neglect in the identification or management of the neuropsychiatric symptoms. (This thesis)
5. Community-dwelling older people with dementia demonstrate a degree of adaptability towards remote telephone consultations. (This thesis)
6. The antipsychotic prescriptions in nursing home residents with dementia showed a promising decline over 15 years. (This thesis)
7. Over 80% of people with dementia could successfully discontinue antipsychotics and anti-dementia drugs within a three-month timeframe, without negative impacts on neuropsychiatric symptoms and cognitive functioning. (This thesis)
8. A timely diagnosis of dementia is essential to initiate appropriate management.
9. Trial completion is a well-reported, clearly defined, and informative indicator of the success of psychotropic drug withdrawal, which should be communicated in clinical practice, trials, and reviews. (This thesis)
10. 山重水复疑无路，柳暗花明又一村。 Regardless of the formidable challenges, when individuals steadfastly cling to their original convictions and persist unwaveringly in their pursuits, hope has a remarkable propensity to emerge unexpectedly, akin to a brilliant sunrise on the darkest of horizons. (A Chinese poem by Lu You)

Jiamin Du
Groningen, January 2024