

Vascular Dementia

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Dementia: Nanoapproaches to treatment

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Mild dementia or mild cognitive impairment (MCI) causes slight but measurable cognitive changes like decline in memory and thinking skills which can easily be noticed by the individuals experiencing them or to other people. There is no certainty that MCI get worse or patient may feel eventually better. It is classified on the basis of thinking skills affected like amnesic MCI (memory affected) and non-amnesic MCI (thinking skills affected along with memory). High blood pressure, high cholesterol, type 1 diabetes and smoking are the factors which promotes the risk of dementia. Management of these factors may reduce its risk. A number of medications have been shown to be effective in treating mild, moderate and severe dementia. Donepezil, memantine hydrochloride, antipsychotics and acetylcholine-esterase inhibitors (such as galantamine and rivastigmine) are used to treat dementia. Furthermore, numerous new strategies are emerging for the management of dementia like nanotechnology i.e., development of nano-particles. Nano-particles are formulations of synthetic, chemical components that self-assemble on mixing into particles of less than 100 nm. Nanostructure mediated drug delivery enhances drug bioavailability, improves the timed release of drug molecules, and enables precision drug targeting. The nano-particle components that will be designed and synthesized will comprise novel peptides and lipids with smart properties, such as receptor targeting, stealth coatings, bio-responsive linkers for disassembly, and biocompatibility. A plethora of research findings are available for the treatment of dementia. This new nanotechnologies could transform the management of patients with dementias with enormous potential benefits to the world and the economy.

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Utilizing IMPROVe™ dementia communication technique developed by silver dawn senior friendly communities enhances confidence, awareness and skill sets for those interacting with a person with dementia

Tami Neumann

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Within the past 20 years of dementia care, multiple communication techniques have been attempted at effectively redirecting and communicating with those with dementia including: Reality orientation, therapeutic fibs and fantasy validation. The problematic issues that arise from these past techniques include an increase in agitation among the person with dementia (PWD), increasing difficulty with redirection by staff as well as a lack of understanding of “how to effectively communicate” by family members. The vagueness of these techniques do not allow for a family member to feel confident in their abilities to communicate and therefore lead to a decrease in meaningful moments of connection with the PWD. The IMPROVe™ communication technique developed by Silver Dawn founders Tami Neumann and Catherine Braxton successfully provide a simplistic format for communication that can be easily trained to direct care staff, family members, first responders and business owners within a community. The patented technique utilizes the concepts of “improv” to provide rules of engagement that encourage positive interaction and an increase in meaningful moment creation. A Pre-test and post-test method was utilized when providing the IMPROVe©™ communication training to police, fire, medics, building department personal, local business owners and children within the school settings during a 6 month pilot program developed in Blue Island, Illinois. The findings indicate that the IMPROVe™ training increased the population’s confidence level in effectively communicating with a senior and PWD by 41%. Posttests after IMPROVe™ training also indicated an increase of 51% in active listening skills by the participant. These figures indicate that a social model of education and training with IMPROVe™ can enhance the engagements with PWD dramatically and should be utilized among all forms of communities to encourage meaningful moment creation for families, children and the community at large.

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