Psychiatry Scenario for Agitation

Presented by [Name]
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The Scenario

- An 82 year-old female with dementia is admitted to the Black Lion Hospital for recurrent falls. She is found to have Alzheimer’s dementia and she is on no medications. The patient has never learned to read or write so a Mini Mental Status Examination was not possible. The diagnosis was made on clinical grounds with collateral from her family. However, she is agitated at night. Her family is against antipsychotic medication and the team has asked if there are any other classes of medication that are helpful for agitation. She will return to her family in the countryside once this problem is addressed and the family cannot manage her otherwise. The treating team questions the role of antidepressants in treating behavioural symptoms in dementia patients and would like to know if there is support for a specific antidepressant in this case?
PICO

P = elderly dementia patient with agitation
I = antidepressants
C = [antipsychotics]
O = management of agitation
Search Question

- In elderly patients with dementia, are antidepressants effective in the treatment of agitation?
Key Terms

In elderly patients with **dementia**, are **antidepressants** effective in the treatment of **agitation**?
Choose a Database

- PubMed
Login to HINARI
Search PubMed through HINARI
Two approaches to this question…

Using the MeSH database
- Better for comprehensive searches
- Can still narrow down to study types, i.e. Randomized Controlled Trials

Using Clinical Queries
- Better for focusing on studies more suited to answering certain types of clinical questions (therapy, diagnosis, etiology, prognosis)
Use the MeSH Database
Type in your first term and click on Search.
There are 24 suggested terms. The definition of each term and the date of its first usage is included to help you. The MeSH term “Dementia” started to be used in 1981 and was back-indexed to 1963.
Click on Dementia to see its full Scope Note and placement in the MeSH Tree or Hierarchy.
Dementia

An acquired organic mental disorder with loss of intellectual abilities of sufficient severity to interfere with social or occupational functioning. The dysfunction is multifaceted and involves memory, behavior, personality, judgment, attention, spatial relations, language, abstract thought, and other executive functions. The intellectual decline is usually progressive, and initially spares the level of consciousness.

Year introduced: 1981 (1963)

PubMed search builder options

- blood
- cerebrospinal fluid
- chemically induced
- chemistry
- classification
- complications
- congenital
- diagnosis
- diet therapy
- drug therapy
- economics
- enzymology
- epidemiology
- ethology
- etiology
- genetics
- history
- immunology
- isolation and purification
- legislation and jurisprudence
- metabolism
- microbiology
- mortality
- nursing
- parasitology
- pathology
- physiology
- physiopathology
- prevention and control
- psychology
- radiography
- radionuclide imaging
- rehabilitation
- surgery
- therapeutic use
- therapy
- transmission
- ultrasonography
- urine
- virology
- restrict to MeSH Major Topic.
- Do not include MeSH terms found below this term in the MeSH hierarchy.

Scroll down to see the rest of the screen
Look at all the terms that fall under the broader subject heading of “Dementia”!

- Tauopathies

**All MeSH Categories**

**Diseases Category**

- Nervous System Diseases
  - Central Nervous System Diseases
    - Brain Diseases
      - Dementia

- AIDS Dementia Complex
- Alzheimer Disease
- Aphasia, Primary Progressive
  - Primary Progressive Nonfluent Aphasia
- Creutzfeldt-Jakob Syndrome
- Dementia, Vascular
- CADASIL
- Dementia, Multi-infarct
- Diffuse Neurofibrillary Tangles with Calcification
- Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration
- Frontotemporal Dementia
- Primary Progressive Nonfluent Aphasia
- Huntington Disease
- Kluver-Bucy Syndrome
- Lewy Body Disease
- Pick Disease of the Brain

**All MeSH Categories**

**Psychiatry and Psychology Category**

- Mental Disorders
  - Delirium, Dementia, Amnestic, Cognitive Disorders

- Dementia
  - AIDS Dementia Complex

- Alzheimer Disease
Click on “Add to search builder”.

As long as you do not tick this box, all the terms that were found below the broader MeSH for “Dementia” will be included in your search.
Type in your second term. Notice that PubMed prompts you with alternative terms. You can choose one of the alternate phrases, or simply click on “Search”. We will click on “Search”.

You can turn autosuggest off.
Add to search builder. Make sure it is with “AND”.

The correct MeSH term is “Psychomotor Agitation”
Type in your third term and click on "Search".
Click on “Antidepressive Agents” to see its full Scope Note and placement in the MeSH Tree or Hierarchy.
Antidepressive Agents

Mood-stimulating drugs used primarily in the treatment of affective disorders and related conditions. Several MONOAMINE OXIDASE INHIBITORS are useful as antidepressants apparently as a long-term consequence of their modulation of catecholamine levels. The tricyclic compounds useful as antidepressive agents (ANTIDEPRESSIVE AGENTS, TRICYCLIC) also appear to act through brain catecholamine systems. A third group (ANTIDEPRESSIVE AGENTS, SECOND-GENERATION) is a diverse group of drugs including some that act specifically on serotonergic systems.

Year introduced: 1966

PubMed search builder options

Entry Terms:

- Agents, Antidepressive
- Antidepressant Drugs

Scroll down to see the rest of the screen
By using "Antidepressive Agents" we will include the two narrower classes of these drugs.
Add to search builder. Make sure it is with “AND”.

Antidepressive Agents

Mood-stimulating drugs used primarily in the treatment of affective disorders and OXIDASE INHIBITORS are useful as antidepressants apparently as a long-term c...
Click on “Search PubMed” to execute the search for your MeSH terms.
There are 25 results. The first one is from the Cochrane Database and looks very useful. 11 of these results are available through HINARI.
Results: 11

1. Pharmacotherapy of neuropsychiatric symptoms in dementia in nursing homes: a comparison of service provision by psychiatric outpatient clinics and primary care psychiatrists.
   Rapp MA, Majic T, Pluta JP, Mell T, Kalbitzer J, Treusch Y, Heinz A, Gutzmann H.
   PMID: 20225175 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
   Related citations

   Ballard C, Corbett A, Chitramohan R, Aarsland D.
   PMID: 19696673 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
   Related citations

3. Pain and palliative care pharmacotherapy literature summaries and analyses.
   Abernethy AP, Farrell TW.
   PMID: 19296357 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
   Related citations

4. Alternatives to atypical antipsychotics for the management of dementia-related agitation.
   PMID: 18447403 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
   Related citations
Access Clinical Queries from the PubMed home page.
Type in your search terms

Choose your category of question (etiology, diagnosis, therapy, prognosis or clinical prediction guides) and the scope—you can be broad (more sensitive) or narrow (more specific)
There are 21 results and 8 possible systematic reviews. Click on “See all”. 
Results: 1 to 20 of 21

- **Antidepressants for agitation and psychosis in dementia.**
  - Soitz DP, Adunuri N, Gill SS, Grunoir A, Herrmann N, Rochon P.
  - PMID: 21328306 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

- **Evaluation of personalised, one-to-one interaction using Montessori-type activities as a treatment of challenging behaviours in people with dementia: the study protocol of a crossover trial.**
  - van der Ploeg ES, O'Connor DW.

- **A double-blind comparison of citalopram and risperidone for the treatment of behavioral and psychotic symptoms associated with dementia.**
  - Pollock BG, Mulsant BH, Rosen J, Mazumdar S, Blakesley RE, Houck PR, Huber KA.
  - PMID: 17848102 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

- **A placebo-controlled double-blind randomized study of venlafaxine in the treatment of depression in dementia.**
  - PMID: 17460144 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
Always check the Search details to make sure your terms were interpreted correctly. Click on “See more...”
You can see that the correct MeSH terms were found. PubMed has also supplemented MeSH with key word searching.