

401 - The Costs of Agitation: A Literature Review

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OBJECTIVE: To evaluate the extent to which the cost of both treated and untreated agitation in Alzheimer's disease has been studied in order to inform future research and development of predictive models of the cost of untreated agitation in Alzheimer's disease.

BACKGROUND: There is inadequate understanding of the costs of agitation in Alzheimer's disease in the scientific and academic literature. Agitation in Alzheimer's disease contributes to negative social and financial outcomes for people with the condition, their care partners, and health systems. When left untreated, the impact of these outcomes is exacerbated, yet the scale of this impact is unknown. This gap in the literature both reflects and perpetuates the broader under-recognition of agitation as a serious unmet need in the Alzheimer's community. Conversely, a better understanding of the costs can help elevate agitation within the global Alzheimer's dialogue.

METHODS: We used MEDLINE, PubMed, PsychINFO the Cochrane Library and Google Scholar databases to identify relevant articles published between 2000 until May 2020. We also reviewed reliable literature published outside of these databases. Keywords utilized in the search include agitation in Alzheimer's, neuropsychiatric symptoms of Alzheimer's, cost of informal and formal care, Medicare and Medicaid costs, economic costs associated to delirium, among others. Only articles in English were included. Inclusion and exclusion criteria were determined by study design, data source and population studied, number of cases included in analysis, source of health service use or cost data, statistical methods and agitation in Alzheimer's attributable and/or incremental costs.

RESULTS: Results will describe the breadth and depth to which costs of treated and untreated agitation in Alzheimer's have been examined, indicating data and statistical methodology used.

CONCLUSIONS: This literature review serves as the basis for understanding global costs of agitation in Alzheimer's disease. From our analysis, we recommend that further cost modeling activities be conducted. We also urge the greater community to use these findings to elevate agitation to the top of the Alzheimer's agenda.