Dress Him While He Walks

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tematically examining the relationship between the resources used in providing care, patients' responses, and the elements of care in this video are critical.

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*Dress Him While He Walks* takes place in a long-term care facility where the main focus is Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The purpose of this video is to encourage the staff at such facilities to try to adapt to the behavioral idiosyncrasies of each patient rather than to try to change those behaviors to conform to the standards expected of a normally functioning individual.

The emphasis is placed strongly on the concept that behaviors such as pacing, yelling, angry outbursts, resistance to bathing, wandering, and wanting to go home are normal behaviors for someone who has Alzheimer's disease, and that the staff members are capable of adapting whereas the residents, due to their dementia, are not.

For example, at mealtime, patients who are pacers and unable to sit still are given finger foods to eat while walking, or, in the morning, they are dressed while walking down the hall.

Distraction and other problem-solving techniques are used to individualize each patient's plan of care. The idea is to treat patients as though they were members of one's own family, with compassion and understanding, rather than treat interactions with them as "just a job." The staff is encouraged to separate the person's behavior from the person. In other words, you can like the person without liking the behavior, but you can accept the behavior because it is a symptom of the illness.

The video is realistic, accurate, and easy to understand, although some of the solutions seem rather simplistic.

It was not mentioned in the video that behavioral management requires a multidisciplinary approach that includes a geriatric psychiatrist and a physician to assess the severity of the problem and to respond to sudden changes in behavior that may be indicative of a physical problem.

This video would be most appropriate for the staff of nursing homes and day care centers that accept the moderately to severely impaired patient, although caregivers at home might also benefit from the attitudes expressed and the problem-solving techniques employed.

There are several natural pauses during which personal and practical issues of the staff's caregiving experiences could be discussed. Specific techniques that have been tried, both successful and unsuccessful, can be shared.

Watching this video may very well stimulate the viewer to be more creative and empathic, although some may feel that it is too idealistic and would not work in their own facility. To this end, in order to implement this type of individualized approach, it would be necessary for the entire staff to participate in the viewing and the follow-up discussion.

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