CHATS provides an exemplar of how measuring change in knowledge is a complex process that needs to be rigorously completed to accurately capture outcomes.

TEMPORAL RELATIONSHIPS OF PERSON- AND TASK-CENTERED DEMENTIA CARE AND MEALTIME BEHAVIORS: SEQUENTIAL ANALYSIS

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Person-centered mealtime care is highly recommended in dementia care. While current research examined associative relationships between person- and task-centered care and resident mealtime behaviors, few studies evaluated their temporal associations. Videotaped mealtime observations (N=160) involving 36 staff and 27 residents (53 staff-resident dyads) in 9 nursing homes were coded. Staff person-centered and task-centered approaches were conceptualized as antecedents of resident positive behaviors, functional impairments, and resistive behaviors using 5-, 10-, and 15-second time windows. Immediately after staff person-centered approaches, resident positive and resistive behaviors were more likely (p range=.001–.29) and functional impairments less likely (p range=.001–.62) with diminished effects in time. Immediately after staff task-centered approaches, resident positive behaviors were less likely (p range=.001–.09). Person-centered mealtime care should be individualized, context-based, and resident-oriented. Resident resistiveness to care may be behavioral responses to person-centered care indicating mismatch to individual preferences and needs, warranting adequate awareness and appropriate assessment.

SESSION 2530 (PAPER)

COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES AND SENSORY FUNCTION

IMPLEMENTATION OF MULTIMODAL INTERVENTIONS FOR CAREGIVERS OF OLDER ADULTS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

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There is a paucity of research on the impact of caregiving on the quality of life of unpaid caregivers for older adults aged 60 years or older with visual impairments (VI). The purpose of this study is to test multimodal interventions to improve quality of life and well-being in unpaid caregivers of older adults with VI. The objectives were: (1) to implement multimodal interventions targeted towards improving the quality of life of family caregivers of older adults with a VI; (2) to evaluate the efficacy/effectiveness of the interventions in improving the quality of life of older adults with a VI. The outcomes of interest include: quality of life, health, stress, burden, problem-solving, and barriers. For this study, a 10-week virtual intervention was implemented with 12 caregivers and eight older adults with visual impairments, for a total of 20 participants. The intervention was held for one hour for 10 consecutive weeks and included activities such as tai chi, yoga, meditation, music, nutrition, and other de-stressing techniques. Participants completed a series of questionnaires before and after the intervention period. These questionnaires include: Satisfaction with Life Scale, Living Arrangement and Indicators of Social Interaction survey, Caregiver quality of life (EQ-5D), the Perceived Change Index, and the Geriatric Depression Scale. Findings from the data analysis show excellent caregiver engagement throughout, including participation in the pre and post surveys. Results show the benefits of multimodal interventions for caregivers as well as older adults with VI. Future studies should focus on interventions that are most promising.

STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION USING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT IN NURSING HOMES: A QUALITATIVE STUDY

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Care of persons with living with dementia is complicated by using personal protective equipment (PPE). Masks and other facial coverings although protective, prohibit visualization of lip-reading and nonverbal cues and obscure identity. The purpose of this qualitative study was to determine best practices for effective communication while using PPE from the provider (n=10), resident (n=5), and family perspective (n=4). The 19 participants were recruited from four states. Qualitative content analysis identified two major themes: (1) challenges experienced during nursing home pandemic care, and (2) the communication strategies to overcome PPE challenges. Although our interviews were not focused on experiences outside of using PPE, all participants voiced trauma surrounding the lockdown for residents and separation from their families. All participants expressed pessimism surrounding the PPE, but this was also met with feelings of normalization surrounding its use. The communication strategies discussed focused on emphasizing (1) verbal and nonverbal communication skills, and (2) person-centered communication. The general communication strategies recommended were consistent with expert opinions such as using written messages and gestures, using loud speech, using clear speech, identifying self, and varying approaches based on person and context. Person-centered approaches centered on the staff and resident "knowing each other." Specifically, knowing the resident is essential to understanding their personal barriers and facilitators to successful communication and knowing each other in a personal and trusting manner helps overcome barriers caused by PPE. This study provides practical suggestions for best practices in communication and reinforces the need for person-centered communication focused on psycho-emotional care.

VERBAL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN NURSING HOME STAFF AND RESIDENTS WITH DEMENTIA AND APATHY: LANGUAGE ANALYSIS

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