

Handout

Overview

This videoconference is designed to help professionals and health care providers better understand and meet the needs of their aging clients with developmental disabilities. Emphasis will be on the links between Alzheimer's disease and Down syndrome, with guidance provided on diagnosis and best practices in caregiving.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session you will be able to:

1. Describe the symptoms of AD in a DS individual.
2. Explain key aspects of diagnosis for AD in DS.
3. Identify treatments for AD in DS.
4. Detail and analyze some successful caregiving practices for individuals with AD and DS.

Food for Thought

Here are some things I'd like you to think about. Please also consider sharing this with me via email.

1. What caregiving tips can you provide that you think might be useful for others, and that weren't discussed during today's presentation?

2. Are there other early identifiers (symptoms) that you know about, that were not covered during today's presentation, which you feel are essential that people know about?

3. What do you think is the single most important thing that you can do to prepare an individual with Down syndrome and their loved ones for Alzheimer's disease? Please explain why.

Resources

1. Many conditions common in Down syndrome mimic AD (e.g. hypothyroidism and depression).
<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1136117-overview#aw2aab6b7>
2. Dementia screening questionnaire for individuals with intellectual disabilities (DSQIID; Deb, Hare, Prior, and Bhaumik, 2007). <http://bjp.rcpsych.org/content/bjprcpsych/190/5/440.full.pdf>
3. Alzheimer Functional Assessment Tool
http://www.emedicinehealth.com/alzheimers_disease_in_down_syndrome/page6_em.htm
4. Alzheimer Disease in Down syndrome by Dr. Norberto Alvarez, and Dr. Michael Hoffmann.
<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1136117-overview>
5. An interesting slideshow that reviews AD and provides diagnostic and caretaking tips.
http://www.emedicinehealth.com/slideshow_alzheimers_disease/article_em.htm
6. A review of AD and DS from Alzheimer's Society
http://www.alzheimer.ca/~media/Files/national/Other-dementias/research_Down_syndrome_2010_e.pdf
7. Alzheimer's Australia: A recommended Resource providing an Overview of AD and DS
<https://fightdementia.org.au/about-dementia-and-memory-loss/about-dementia/types-of-dementia/down-syndrome-and-alzheimers-disease>

As well as tip Sheets on communication, safety issues, activities, dental care, eating, etc..

<https://fightdementia.org.au/about-dementia-and-memory-loss/help-sheets>

8. A review of some cognitive assessment measures
<http://www.dementia-assessment.com.au/cognitive/>