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Treatment of agitation and aggressiveness among French elderly residents

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Objectives: The objective of the epidemiological survey OCEAN II, was to describe the treatment of the elderly’s disruptive behaviour.

Methods: From 34 long term care units (LTCU) and 32 retirement houses (RH), 308 elderly inpatients presenting agitation and/or aggressiveness were selected at random. For each of them a specific questionnaire was filled out.

Results: Advice by a specialist (psychiatrists 64%, Geriatricians 28%) was required in 47% of the cases (NH: 41%, LTCU 53%, p=0.045). A medication was initiated for 55% of the patients. The most prescribed drugs were: antipsychotics (36%); essentially haloperidol and tiapride; average duration: 22.3 weeks, SD=37.6); benzodiazepines (14%); essentially clorazepate, oxazepam and bromazepam; average duration 27 weeks, SD=30.7); and antidepressants (12%); essentially mianserine, paroxetine and fluoxetine; average duration 25.2 weeks, SD=35.1). Physical restraint was used in 27.2% of the patients.

Conclusion: This survey, underlines the wide use of physical restraint for disruptive behaviour in elderly residents.

P18.13
Predictors of alcoholism in sons of alcoholics at age 40

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Objective: The Danish Longitudinal Study of Alcoholism comprises a series of follow-up examinations of 328 men who have been studied from birth. The long term objective of study is to identify significant risk factors for alcohol dependence in adulthood by applying the longitudinal high-risk methodology of the sample.

Methods: Our sample includes 222 sons of alcoholic fathers and 106 matched sons without parental alcoholism. Over the life time the examinations have included: Pre-peri- and postnatal data, school reports, teacher ratings, assessments at age 20, 30 and 40 (family and social history, psychopathology, neuropsychology, EEG, VEP, alcohol challenge test, medical evaluation, criminality, alcohol/substance abuse).

Results: The presentation will focus on the recently finished 40 year follow-up. Numerous premorbid variables did separate those subjects who would and would not develop dependence in adulthood. Logistic regression analyses have demonstrated that low birth weight, early weaning, conduct disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity and antisocial personality disorders have significant predictive power.

Conclusions: The longitudinal high risk paradigm seems to be an important epidemiological method to identify predictors for the development of alcoholic dependence in adulthood. The recently completed 40 year follow-up of the sample has fulfilled the original research plan (formulated 25 years ago): To identify significant risk factors among high-risk individuals using premorbidly collected research data.