



Research on mistreatment of older adults in Quebec:

summaries of scientific articles



Validation of the Caregivers Abuse Screen (CASE).

REFERENCE

Reis, M. & Nahmiash, D. (1995a). Validation of the Caregivers Abuse Screen CASE). *Canadian Journal on Aging*, 14(sup. 2), 45-60.

TEXT TYPE

Format: Scientific article

Content: Validation of tool

DISCUSSED THEMES

Extent of the phenomenon, forms of abuse, risk factors, vulnerabilities, gender concept, profile of the abused person, authors of abuse, detection, intervention, burden and stress.

GOAL OR RESEARCH QUESTION

The study aims to determine the validity of the screening of abusive behavior in health care providers (Caregiver Abuse Screen - CASE) as an indicator of abuse of the seniors involved. It also attempts to determine whether the answers to this questionnaire are related to other variables associated with abuse and if this tool produces a convergent validity.

PROBLEM

It is estimated that 3 to 5% of seniors are victims of abuse, whether it is physical, psychological, financial or material or in the form of neglect. Although health care providers are generally a good source to track abuse, several existing screening scales conceived to gather information from these people do not cover certain types of abuse.

METHODOLOGY

The study compared a group of 44 health care providers with of abusive behavior (and receiving help from a health and social services center) with two groups of non-abusive care providers (one composed of 45 people who received assistance from the local community service center (CLSC) of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Montreal West and the other composed of 50 people who did not benefit from this assistance) to see if the CASE made it possible to distinguish them. To explore the convergent validity, three measures of aggression and abuse were used. Several scales or subscales measuring personality traits and variables related to elder abuse were used to demonstrate construct validity.

RESULTS

CASE helps to distinguish between the abusive and the non-abusive groups, but no differences were found between the two groups of non-abusive caregivers. It was noted that the higher the score on the CASE, the more frequently was the presence of indicators of abuse noted. The highest scores in the CASE coincide with higher scores on the level of abuse from independent sources, but also with the personality traits of caregivers, with assessments of underprivileged care providers, with the relationship between caregiver and the elder person, with other behavioral issues between the caregiver and the elder person, with the precarious state of health of the caregiver, as well as with a greater number of depressions and with low social support.

DISCUSSION

The results show that the CASE is a valid method to screen for abusive care providers because it allows their identification on the basis of their higher score than the non-abusive care providers. We also note that this measure can distinguish abusers from several groups of non-abusers. Convergent validity was also demonstrated, since the results obtained by this method are consistent with those obtained through other screening measures for elder abuse. In addition, construct validity was demonstrated through the establishment of several relationships between the results on the CASE and other factors associated with abusive situations.

CONCLUSION

The validity of CASE is supported by data from various sources and by the existence of associations in the sense which would be expected. This tool can be used in research to perform an initial screening of a large elderly population and, in clinical practice, it can be used as an early warning of abuse, in combination with other tools.

AVENUES FOR PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

In terms of research, the authors mention the relevance of demonstrating the generalizability of this study, but also to explore the concept of gender difference, to work with a sample that is less self-selecting, to further explore the factors of abuse and neglect that are part of CASE, to consider the possibility of using a Likert-type scale, to add items relating to finances, to increase the number of items for each factor and to refine the CASE to allow individual interpretation of the results.

DRAFTING DATE

August 29, 2013

