

AGITATION AND AGGRESSION IN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE (AD) IS A DIAGNOSTIC ENTITY FOR DRUG DEVELOPMENT – NO

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Agitation of patients with dementia is a syndrome that leads to high burden of o the family and the care giver of the AD patient. Aggression is another behavioral expression of the patient with dementia that in addition to its burden on the care giver it may lead to physical or at least psychological damage to the care giver. Thus, acute management is needed in these situations.

So why we cannot use these two symptoms as a diagnostic entity for drug development in order to decrease the suffering from the patient and his care givers?

- a. These two symptoms in AD may present delirium as manifestation of acute medical and surgical condition in these patients that deserves urgent medical evaluation.
- b. These behavioral entities have diagnostic value between different types of dementia that we can use in our evaluation and that may lead to different management. E.g. Loewy Bodies dementia and frontal lobe dementia.
- c. Treatment of symptoms before the correct diagnosis is done may harm the patient.
- d. The efficacy of non pharmacologic treatment of the environment and the approach of the care giver. Has been demonstrated.
- e. The side effects of the drugs may worsen quality of life of the patient by increasing instability, incontinence, mobility and intellectual and emotional capacities in the long run of the patient's management.

Thus development of new drug by using these entities may increase the harm to the patients by misdiagnosis and mal treatment to common symptoms of acute conditions.