
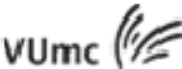



Can personal dignity be assessed by others?

A survey study comparing nursing home residents' with family members', nurses' and physicians' answers on the MIDAM-LTC

4th International Seminar of the PRC and EAPC R.N.
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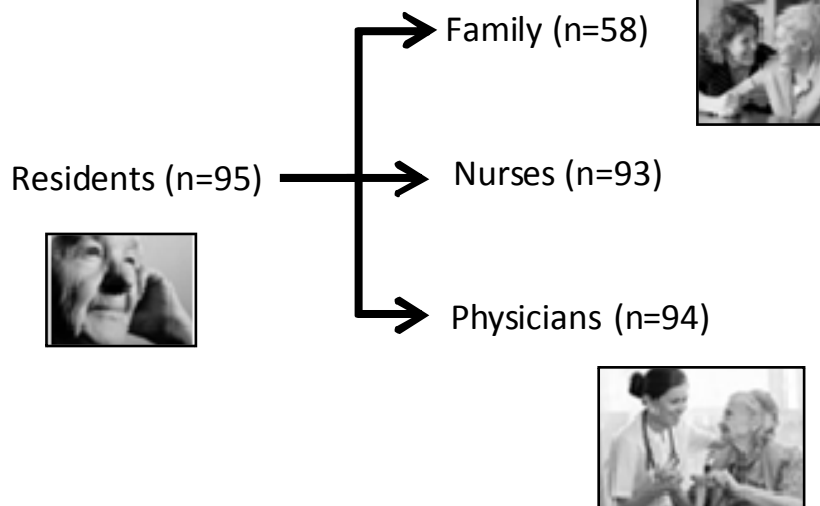
Mariska Oosterveld-Vlug,
Bregje Onwuteaka-Philipsen, Roeline Pasman,
Isis van Genrip, Riekie de Vet

Background

- Nursing home residents vulnerable to loss of dignity
- Personal dignity: subjectively experienced form of dignity
- Collection of resident-reported data not always possible
- Knowledge on comparability proxies <-> residents needed
- To what extent do responses of proxies correspond with those of residents?
 - *Family members*
 - *Nurses*
 - *Elderly care physicians*

Methods



Measurements

- MIDAM-LTC : 31 items (symptoms/negative experiences)

Domain	Example item	a. Does this apply to you?	b. To what extent does this influence your sense of dignity?
			Not at all ← → Very much
Evaluation of self in relation to others	I feel worthless for my friends and family	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes →	1 2 3 4 5
Functional status	I am not really able to carry out my usual activities	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes →	1 2 3 4 5
Mental state	I have lost my fighting spirit	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes →	1 2 3 4 5
Care and situational aspects	I often have to wait a long time for help	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes →	1 2 3 4 5

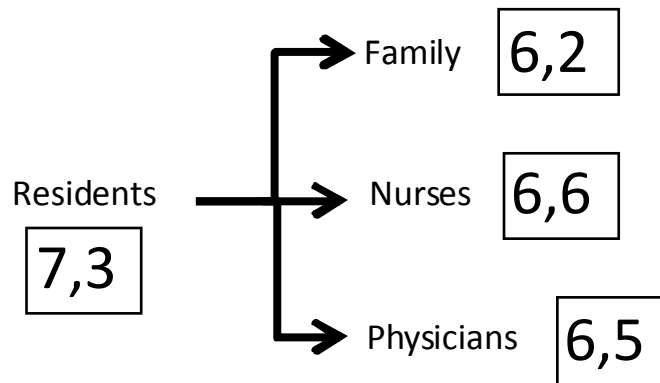
Thinking about the past 2 days, can you describe your sense of dignity?

Completely lost 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 Completely intact

Results (1)

Thinking about the past 2 days, can you describe your sense of dignity?

Completely lost 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 Completely intact



Results (2)

Domain	Example item	Percentage 'present'			
		Resident	Family	Nurse	Physician
Evaluation of self in relation to others	I feel worthless for my friends and family	17 %	+ 18*	+ 1	- 4
Functional status	I am not really able to carry out my usual activities	49 %	+ 5	- 2	- 10
Mental state	I have lost my fighting spirit	26 %	+ 28**	+ 0	- 11
Care and situational aspects	I often have to wait a long time for help	59 %	+ 2	- 23**	- 9
Average % across all 31 items		39 %	+ 8**	- 7**	- 7**

* p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01

Results (3)

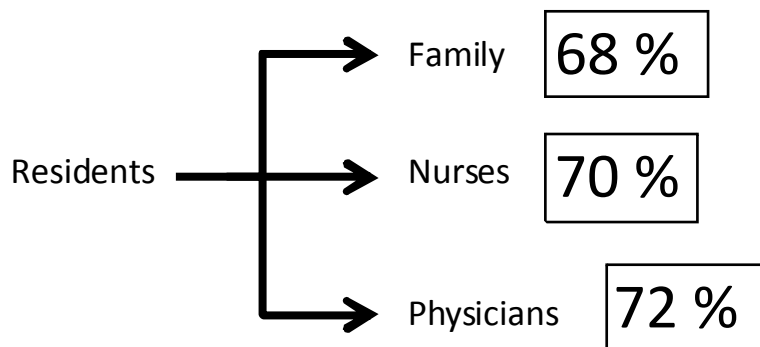
Physicians and nurses underestimate 'presence' of items:

- Doctors do not pay enough attention to my wishes
- I feel guilty if I have to call on the nurses a lot
- I often have to wait a long time before I receive help
- I feel I'm not being taken seriously
- I am not treated with enough respect by caregivers

Residents: 17% Nurses: 3% Physicians: 6%

Results (4)

	a. Does this apply to you?
I feel worthless for my friends and family	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes



91-95%: I have to use medical-technical aids in daily life

43-50%: I no longer feel like the person I was before

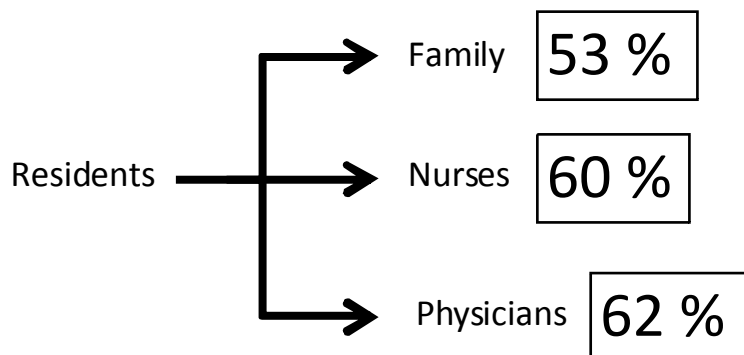
Results (5)

Domain	Example item	Influence on sense of dignity			
		Resident	Family	Nurse	Physician
Evaluation of self in relation to others	I feel worthless for my friends and family	1.38	1.80*	1.40	1.23
Functional status	I am not really able to carry out my usual activities	2.06	2.38	2.23	1.75
Mental state	I have lost my fighting spirit	1.53	2.07*	1.57	1.27
Care and situational aspects	I often have to wait a long time for help	1.89	2.91**	1.86	2.08
Average score across all 31 items		1.66	2.09**	1.78	1.59

* p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01

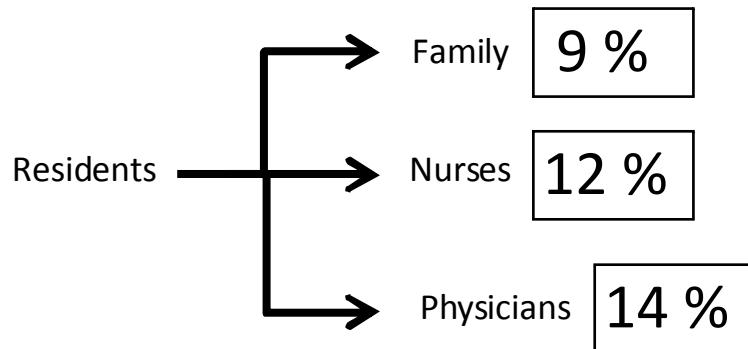
Results (6)

	b. To what extent does this influence your sense of dignity?				
I feel worthless for my friends and family	1	2	3	4	5



Results (7)

How often do proxies not recognize a considerable influence on dignity? (score 3-5 on question b)



Conclusions

Can personal dignity be assessed by others?

- No substitution for residents' reports
- Different patterns of deviation
 - Consistent underreporting of single item score
 - Family overestimate presence and influence on dignity
 - Nurses and physicians underestimate presence and consequently influence on dignity
 - Nevertheless: most agreement between residents and physicians
 - Higher agreement among more observable items
- Different reference points in assessing residents' dignity
- Residents' responses preferred, but still value in proxy responses

Thank you for your attention!

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