

What Current Assessment Screens and Interventions can be Used to Detect, Prevent, and Treat Elder Neglect?

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Objectives

- At the conclusion of this presentation participants will be able to:
- Understand what elder neglect is and the concern it has for the elder population.
 - Identify known assessment tools and interventions occupational therapy practitioners can utilize in practice

Background

What is Elder Neglect?

- Elder neglect occurs when a caretaker or responsible party fail to provide the basic needs of an elder such as food, shelter, protection, or healthcare (National Center on Elder Abuse, 2020).
- Elder neglect can occur across any setting (National Center on Elder Abuse, 2020)

Prevalent Statistics

- According to a 2016 Census, the U.S. will remain the second oldest region in the world by 2050 (United States Bureau, 2018).
- By 2030, individuals 85 and older will grow to 8.9 million and by 2050 this number will increase to 18 million (National Center of Elder Abuse, 2020).
- There are no current reported statistics as to how many elders in the U.S. are neglected due to the lack of research in this field
- However, there are reported statistics for the umbrella term of elder abuse which encompasses elder neglect.
- It is reported that 1 in 10 Americans over the age of 60 experience some sort of abuse (National Council on Aging, 2020).
- Elder abuse often goes unreported, making it more difficult to develop true statistics (National Center on Elder Abuse, 2020).

Challenges with Research

- Factors that impact conducting research on elder abuse include:
 - Inconsistent definitions of elder abuse
 - The Institutional Review Board (IRB) being unfamiliar with research on elder abuse which can make approval difficult
 - Ethical dilemmas
 - Identification of the most common types of elder abuse
 - Measuring successful outcomes
 - Lack of researchers (National Center of Elder Abuse, 2020).

Relation to Occupational Therapy

- Elder neglect impacts several areas of occupation like activities of daily living, instrumental activities of daily living, health management, leisure, work, and social participation (AOTA, 2020).
- Occupational therapy practitioners guide their practice by the Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics. Principles in the Code of Ethics that relate to elder neglect are beneficence and fidelity (AOTA, 2020)

Purpose

The purpose of this literature review is to discover if there are assessment tools or interventions being used to assess or prevent elder neglect in the field of occupational therapy or related fields like psychology or social work.

Methods

Databases

CINAHL
PsycINFO
MEDLINE
Social Work Abstracts

Search Terms:

- P:** elder neglect, mistreatment, maltreatment
- I:** assessment tools, interventions, screenings, treatment, programs
- O:** detect, prevent, treatment

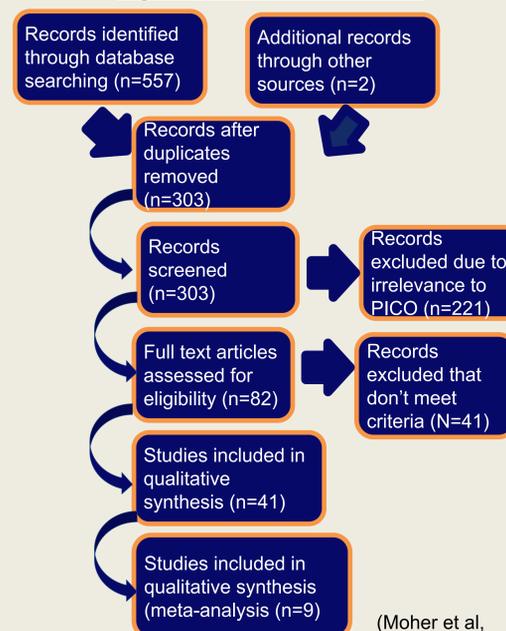
Inclusion Criteria:

- Year of publication (2000-2020),
- Age of participants (60+)
- Assessment tool (must include questions or portions applicable to neglect)
- Interventions (focus on neglect),
- Caregiver (family or staff at a facility)

Exclusion Criteria:

- Articles about self-neglect

Figure 1: Prisma Flow Chart



Results

Figure 2: Assessment Tools

Authors	Assessment Tool	Areas Assessed	Setting
Ballard et al., (2019).	Elder Abuse Suspicion Index	Neglect, physical, financial, & emotional abuse	Long term care facility
Yaffe, et al., (2008).	Elder Abuse Suspicion Index	Neglect, physical, financial, & emotional abuse	Ambulatory care
Lafata & Helfrich (2001).	The Occupational Therapy Elder Abuse Index	Neglect, physical, caregiver responsibility	Home
Cohen, et al., (2008).	Expanded Indicators of Abuse	Abuse & neglect	Hospital
Giraldo-Rodriguez et al., (2013).	Geriatric Mistreatment Scale	Neglect, physical, psychological, economic, sexual	Home
De Donder et al., (2018).	Risk of Elder Abuse & Mistreatment Instrument	Neglect, physical, psychological, economic, sexual violation	Home
Fulmer et al., (2000)	Elder Assessment Instrument	Neglect, abuse, exploitation, abandonment	Emergency department

All of the participants in these studies were neglected by family members except the Ballard et al., study were neglected by staff members of facility

Figure 3: Interventions to Treat Elder Neglect

Authors	Type of Intervention	Interventions	Setting
Brownell & Heiser (2006).	Group interventions	Psycho-educational support groups	Graduate school
Bitando et al., (2020)	Educational interventions	Educational handouts, train the trainer model, educate client's family	Rural home
Bitando et al., (2020).	Virtual educations	Telecommunication programs, video-phone interviews	Rural home

Bitando et al., recommend interventions based off authors expertise, Lafata & Helfrich and Brownell & Heiser intervention was administered 1X

Discussion

- Assessment tools that can be utilized by occupational therapy practitioner due to moderate to high validity and reliability is the EASI, EIA, GMS, REAMI, and the EAI.
- Recommended interventions by experts include the train the trainer model, educational handouts, telecommunication programs, video phone interviews, meeting with the client's family, and education to patients and family.
- Psycho-educational support groups are not recommended due to the lack of reported success in the small sample study.

Clinical Implications.

- The more professionals trained to screen elder neglect, the more we can lower the prevalence of elder neglect.
- All health professionals can be trained on identification of elder neglect across settings.
- The presented assessment tools could open the door for creating assessment tools that solely focus on neglect.
- Occupational therapy practitioners can use results of assessment screens to create client centered interventions.
- Interventions can be incorporated into occupational therapy treatment plans across a variety of settings.
- Incorporate identification and interventions into OT curriculum

Future Research

- More research should be conducted on prevalence and severity of elder neglect
- Creation of assessment tools specific to elder neglect rather than on the umbrella term of elder abuse.
- Research with larger samples
- More research should be conducted on possible interventions to treat elder neglect for practitioners to use.

Conclusion

- The evidence demonstrates that occupational therapy practitioners can be crucial in identifying neglect in their clients through assessment tools and the use of client centered interventions to prevent neglect.

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