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# The Effectiveness of Recreational Therapy on Dementia Patients

## **1Rakesh Yadav** (Assistant professor, Department of Nursing, IIMT University, Meerut)

**2Dr. Varun Toshniwal** (Professor, Dept of Nursing, IIMT University, Meerut,)

**Corresponding Author:**

## **3Mr. Vivek Kumar** (Assistant professor, Department of Nursing, IIMT University, Meerut)

**Orchid ID**:- 0000000318496983

**Mail ID**:-[vikkuveer@gmail.com](mailto:vikkuveer@gmail.com)

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***Abstract***

*Therapy for dementia patients encompasses a range of interventions aimed at improving quality of life, cognitive function, and emotional wellbeing. Non-pharmacological therapies, including cognitive stimulation, physical exercise, music therapy, and reminiscence therapy, have shown promise in enhancing memory, mood, and overall engagement. These approaches often focus on maintaining cognitive function, reducing behavioral symptoms, and fostering social interaction. Pharmacological treatments, primarily cholinesterase inhibitors and memantine, can provide symptomatic relief but do not halt disease progression. Integrative therapy models that combine pharmacological and non-pharmacological strategies offer the most comprehensive benefits. Recent advancements highlight the importance of personalized therapy plans tailored to individual patient needs, underlining the multifaceted nature of effective dementia care.*

***Keywords:*** *Dementia, Personality, Intervention, NEO Personality Inventory.*

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### Introduction:

Therapy for dementia patients is an essential aspect of managing this Progressive neurodegenerative disorder characterized by cognitive decline, memory loss, and decreased reasoning. The goal of therapy is not only to relieve symptoms, but also to improve the quality of life for both patients and carers. Therapeutic approaches encompass a range of strategies, including pharmacological treatments, cognitive rehabilitation, and psychosocial interventions. These therapies are tailored to individual needs, focusing on maintaining functional abilities, promoting emotional wellbeing, and supporting social engagement. By addressing both the cognitive and emotional aspects of dementia, therapy can help patients

retain their independence longer and improve overall life satisfaction [1].

### Treatment Theory for Assessing Interests: Objective:

To enhance the quality of life for dementia patients

by identifying and integrating their interests into personalized therapeutic interventions.

### Theoretical Framework:

1. **Person Centered Care:** Principle: Tailoring therapy to the individual's history, preferences, and interests. Application: Engage patients in activities they find meaningful, improving their emotional and cognitive wellbeing.
2. **Cognitive Stimulation Theory:** Principle: Regular mental engagement can slow cognitive decline. Application: Use interest-based activities

to stimulate cognitive functions and maintain mental acuity.

1. **Behavioral Activation:** Principle: Increasing engagement in rewarding activities reduces depressive symptoms and enhances mood. Application: Identify and incorporate activities that the patient enjoys to boost participation and overall happiness [2].

### Assessment Method:

1. **Interest Inventory:** Conduct structured interviews with patients and caregivers to gather detailed information on past hobbies, current likes, and dislikes. Use questionnaires and observational methods to identify spontaneous interests during daily activities.

### Multi-Disciplinary Approach:

Collaborate with healthcare professionals, including psychologists, occupational therapists, and social workers, to create a comprehensive profile of the patient's interests.

1. **Regular Re-evaluation:** Interests and cognitive abilities can change over time; therefore, reassess regularly to adjust therapeutic interventions accordingly [3].

### Therapeutic Integration:

1. **Personalized Activity Planning:**

Develop individualized therapy plans incorporating identified interests (e.g., music, art, and gardening). Ensure activities are adaptable to the patient’s current cognitive and physical abilities.

### Engagement Strategies:

Use familiar objects and themes related to the patient's interests to increase engagement.

Encourage social interaction through group activities that align with shared interests.

1. **Feedback Loop:** Monitor patient responses to activities.

Solicit feedback from patients and caregivers to refine and adjust therapy plans.

### Expected Outcomes:

1. **Enhanced Engagement:**

Increased participation in therapy sessions. Higher levels of motivation and enjoyment during activities.

### Improved Wellbeing:

Reduced symptoms of depression and anxiety. Slowed cognitive decline and maintained or improved cognitive functions.

### Quality of Life:

Greater sense of purpose and satisfaction. Improved social interactions and relationships.

### Style of Interest:

Tailored exercises based on the individual's interests and cognitive abilities, such as puzzles, memory games, and creative arts. Routine Integration: Incorporation of cognitive tasks into daily routines to maintain consistency and promote familiarity. Social Interaction: Group sessions that encourage socialization, fostering a sense of community and reducing feelings of isolation [4].

Technology Use: Utilization of digital tools like tablets and specialized software to provide interactive and adaptive cognitive exercises.

Multisensory Stimulation: Engaging multiple senses through activities like music therapy, aromatherapy, and tactile crafts to enhance cognitive and emotional responses.

### Benefits:

Cognitive Enhancement: Regular mental stimulation can slow cognitive decline and improve memory and problem-solving skills. Emotional Wellbeing: Engaging activities reduce anxiety, depression, and agitation, promoting a positive emotional state. Social Connection: Increased opportunities for interaction help maintain social skills and provide emotional support. Trained Facilitators: Professionals trained in dementia care and cognitive therapies guide the sessions. Family Involvement: Encouraging family members to participate in activities to strengthen bonds and provide additional support. Regular Monitoring: Ongoing assessment of cognitive function to tailor activities and track progress [5].

### Pilot Study:

This pilot study aims to assess the efficacy of a multisensory intervention program in improving cognitive function and quality of life in dementia patients. Twenty participants, aged 6585, diagnosed with mild to moderate dementia, will undergo a 12- week program combining music therapy, aromatherapy, and tactile stimulation. Pre and post intervention assessments will include standardized cognitive tests and quality of life questionnaires. Preliminary results are expected to provide insights into the potential benefits of multisensory interventions, guiding future large-scale studies and contributing to improved therapeutic strategies for dementia care [6].

### Causal model:

A causal model of dementia in patients involves multiple factors: genetic predisposition (e.g., APOEe4 allele), environmental influences (e.g., exposure to toxins), lifestyle factors (e.g., physical inactivity, poor diet), and comorbid conditions (e.g., hypertension, diabetes). These factors contribute to the development of neurodegenerative changes in the brain, including amyloidal plaques and tau tangles. This neuropathology leads to cognitive decline, affecting memory, reasoning, and daily functioning. Early interventions, such as cognitive stimulation, physical activity, and proper medical management, can mitigate some risks, highlighting the interplay between biological, environmental, and lifestyle factors in dementia progression [6].

### Instruments:

The Dementia Patient Care Instrument (DPCI) is a comprehensive tool designed to assess the cognitive, emotional, and physical wellbeing of dementia patients. It includes sections on memory function, orientation, language abilities, mood, and daily living activities. Caregivers rate the patient's abilities on a scale from 1 to 5, with higher scores indicating greater impairment. The DPCI helps healthcare providers create personalized care plans, track disease progression, and evaluate treatment effectiveness. It is also valuable for research purposes, providing standardized data on patient outcomes and the impact of various interventions on dementia symptoms and quality of life.

### Design:

Designing for dementia patients necessitates a balance of functionality and empathy. Spaces should prioritize safety with clear navigation cues and nonslip surfaces. Simplified layouts reduce confusion, while contrasting colors aid perception. Soft lighting minimizes shadows and agitation. Furniture should be ergonomic, with rounded edges to prevent injuries. Memory aids such as photos and labels provide comfort and orientation. Incorporating natural elements like gardens or sunlight enhances wellbeing. Technology can assist with reminders and monitoring. Above all, designs must foster dignity and independence, creating environments where dementia patients feel secure and supported in their journey [7].

### Procedure:

* Establish a calm environment to minimize agitation.
* Communicate clearly and patiently, using simple language and gestures.
* Maintain a consistent daily routine to provide stability.
* Ensure safety by removing hazards and providing supervision.
* Offer nutritious meals and hydration regularly.
* Encourage physical activity and mental stimulation.
* Administer medications as prescribed, monitoring for side effects.
* Provide emotional support and validation of feelings.
* Engage in activities tailored to their interests and abilities.
* Regularly assess their condition and adjust care accordingly.
* Collaborate with caregivers and healthcare professionals for comprehensive care.
* Document observations and interventions for continuity of care."

### Personality as Style of Interest:

The Personality as Style of Interest approach for dementia patients involves tailoring activities to their unique interests, abilities, and cognitive levels. By understanding their past preferences and hobbies, caregivers create personalized experiences that engage and stimulate them. Whether it's reminiscing about cherished memories, engaging in arts and crafts, listening to familiar music, or participating in gentle exercises, the focus is on fostering moments of joy, connection, and dignity. This approach not only enhances quality of life but also honors the individuality of each person living with dementia, promoting a sense of purpose and fulfilment amidst the challenges they face [7].

### Classification of Activities for Persons with Dementia:

Cognitive Stimulation: Puzzles, memory games, and storytelling to engage memory and cognitive functions. Sensory Activities: Music therapy, aromatherapy, and tactile stimulation to evoke sensory experiences.3Physical Exercises: Gentle movements, walking, and stretching to maintain mobility and balance. Creative Expression: Art therapy, crafts, and singing to encourage self- expression and emotional release. Reminiscence Therapy: Photo albums, familiar objects, and reminiscing to spark memories and conversation. Social Interaction: Group activities, outings, and structured conversations to foster social connections. Daily Living Tasks: Simple household

chores and self care routines to promote independence and routine.

### Mainstream Consumers (E+O):

* + Group activities: bowling or table games.
  + Tether ball game: easy ball game for groups.
  + "The Price Is Right": Group Game.
  + Dancing: moving to music with a partner or group.
  + Exercise to music with others.
  + Sing along to known songs with others in a group.
  + Connect with a phone companion.
  + Funny videos to watch with family or friends.

### Creative Interactors (E+O+):

* + Reminiscent group.
  + Create a mosaic with tiles in groups.
  + Feeling cube validation treatment involves rolling a feeling dice and discussing the emotions that arise in groups.
  + Use the wandering cart to explore the facility and interact with others by using objects in the pockets.
  + Bell group: utilizing colored bells in a small group to create music.
  + Creates Pleasure books: Use bookmaking kits to construct theme projects in a group.
  + Group quilting: use fabric squares to create a colourful decorating item.
  + Group photo session: Bring images of yourself and chat about who you are.

### Introspections (E—O+):

Create unique bead and stringing designs by using various beads and findings. Activity Apron (or Fishing Box): Wear an apron with pockets containing intriguing items to study. Create holiday greeting cards. Create an exciting and colourful mind teaser puzzle by adding patterns to precut wood puzzles. Go for a nature stroll to collect leaves, flowers, and so on. Look at and handle the wave machine. Listen to the brief story.

### Homebodies (E-O)

* + Hang laundry: hang socks on a line.
  + Make a birdhouse with pre-cut wood.
  + Apple peeler: Make applesauce.
  + Make butter: Shake heavy cream until it becomes butter.
  + Pet visits.
  + Sewing cards or quilting project.
  + Cooking Project.
  + Starting seeds inside

### Method:

A method for supporting dementia patients involves creating a familiar environment, maintaining consistent routines, and providing clear communication.

Encouraging physical activity, cognitive stimulation, and social interaction are essential. Simplifying tasks, breaking them into manageable steps, and offering gentle reminders can help maintain independence. Employing memory aids such as calendars and labels aids in orientation. Patience, empathy, and active listening are crucial for understanding and addressing their needs. Regular medical checkups and medication management are essential for symptom control. Above all, fostering a compassionate and supportive atmosphere ensures the wellbeing and dignity of dementia patients throughout their journey.

### Analysis:

Dementia patients often experience cognitive decline, memory loss, and impaired daily functioning. Their condition is characterized by progressive neurodegeneration, impacting various brain functions. Alzheimer's disease is the most frequent type of dementia, followed by vascular dementia and Lewy body dementia, among others. The analysis of dementia patients typically involves assessing their cognitive abilities, behavioural symptoms, and quality of life. Treatment focuses on managing symptoms, providing support, and enhancing overall wellbeing. Caregiver burden and societal healthcare costs are significant challenges associated with dementia, necessitating comprehensive strategies for early detection, intervention, and support for both patients and caregivers.

### Conclusion:

In conclusion, the effectiveness of recreational therapy on dementia patients lies in its ability to address the multifaceted challenges of the condition, encompassing cognitive decline, emotional wellbeing, and social engagement. Nonpharmacological therapies, such as cognitive stimulation, physical activity, music therapy, and reminiscence therapy,offer promising avenues for improving memory, mood, and overall quality of life. Integrating personalized therapy plans that consider individual interests and abilities is crucial for maximizing therapeutic benefits. While pharmacological treatments provide symptomatic relief, they do not halt disease progression, emphasizing the importance of holistic approaches.

Advancements in therapy models highlight the need for ongoing research and tailored interventions to meet the diverse needs of dementia patients and their caregivers. Ultimately, by prioritizing individualized care and comprehensive support, recreational therapy plays a vital role in enhancing the wellbeing and dignity of those living with dementia.

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