

Journal Watch – Quality of Life – Patients with Dementia

Article:

Quasi-experimental evaluation of a multifaceted intervention to improve quality of end-of-life care and quality of dying for patients with advanced dementia in long-term care institutions

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Review:

Strengths:

1. A multidimensional and multi-disciplinary approach that deals with an area that has increasing needs for palliative care.
2. Advanced dementia was well defined, and outcomes were objectively measured.
3. Intervention encouraged good palliative care practices and processes.
4. Baseline characteristics were similar between the two groups including baseline assessment of QOD and QOC.

Weaknesses:

1. Due to difficulty or unfeasibility, the study had a quasi-experimental design which has its own inherent limitations.
2. The study had a good total number of participants but the response rate were low for control group.
3. There is a risk for recall bias with questionnaires completed by families.
4. Generalizability of the results will depend on further information that was not included in the current study, like facility and staff characteristics.