

The effectiveness of the group home in caring for the elderly with dementia: A systematic review



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BACKGROUND

The group home is one of the dementia care models and many studies have been made on this topic. However, the results of these studies on the effectiveness of group home are varied because of different research designs method limitations (i.e. no measurement of long-term outcomes, the lack of a control group). The effectiveness of group home currently has not undergone complete evaluation in clinical practice.

PURPOSE

The aim of this study was to appraise the effectiveness of group home of group home in caring for the elderly with dementia.

METHODS

A literature search included English and non-English reports in Medline, PubMed, CINAHL Plus with Full Text, Health Source, Cochrane library, Ageline, Academic Search Complete, ProQuest Health and Medical, MEDLINE Complete, ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source, Chinese Electronic Periodical Services (CEPS), Chinese Journal, Thesis Index and other databases.

Keywords including dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and group home were keyed in and the search was limited to articles published before June 2012. Literature search and quality assessment were conducted by two independent reviewers. A modified Jadad scale was used in the quality assessment.

RESULTS

Eleven articles met study inclusion criteria. The quality scores of 11 studies were between 1 and 3. Dementia patients who lived in group home have better daily living activity, walking ability, and quality of life when compared with those who lived in long-term care institutions. Residents in group home have more independence, autonomy, and mobility; use less psychotropic drugs, and have a higher frequency of interaction with staff. There were not significant difference in the rates of survival and hospitalization, cognitive status, and problem behaviors in three-year follow-ups in a different care model.

CONCLUSIONS

Results demonstrated that the care model of the group home is effective for dementia patients and offers a research design model for future studies to improve the quality of care for dementia.