



Date: Jan 8, 2019

PLEASE NOTE that Project ECHO® Care of the Elderly case recommendations do not create or otherwise establish a provider-patient relationship between any ECHO Care of the Elderly Hub team member/presenters and any patient whose case is being presented in a Project ECHO® setting.

All resources are posted in the COP website, under “Jan 8 – Responsive Behaviours”. You must be logged in to view the resources.

Case Synopsis:

85+ y.o. female with advancing dementia marked by paranoid behavior, anxiety, and frustration. Reaches out to grab others, frequent up and down from wheelchair. Multiple medication trials, non pharmacologic strategies trialed, BSO involved.

Q1 are there other medication changes that may be more effective

Q2 any additional non pharmacologic suggestions for management

Summary of Recommendations:

Non-Pharmacological interventions:

1. Thorough P.I.E.C.E.S assessment to continue to understand her behaviours and potential unmet needs (Physical, Intellectual, Emotional, Capacity, Environment, Social/spiritual)
2. When she is talking what are the thematic areas – this may help structure non pharm approaches
3. Contact deaf-blind associations in area
4. Consider trial of ‘pocket talker’ to augment communication/hearing as doesn’t tolerate hearing aids
5. Suggestion of Broda chair, however keep in mind this would be considered a restraint if she is still able to rise from chair on her own

Pharmacological interventions:

1. Continue with assessment and management of pain as contributor to symptoms
2. Target symptoms of anxiety – is there a mood overlay
 - a. Consider alternate SSRI trial, Sertraline or citalopram
3. Stop Haloperidol – risk of increased confusion, falls
4. Suggest discontinuation of olanzapine and Consider trial of aripiprazole – target aggressive
 - a. behaviours and/or psychosis
5. Consider third-line drugs given number of drug trials already implemented:
 - a. Mood stabilizer Carbamazepine: agitation and escalating behaviors
 - b. Would not recommend valproic acid as not supported in literature
6. Trial of Cannabis oil recommended however, limited evidence to support its use and not officially approved by Health Canada



Resources:

1. Contact local Deaf/Blind organizations and possibly obtain a Pocket Talker
2. http://cdbaontario.com/index_e.php
3. <https://www.chs.ca/products/william-sounds-pocket-talker-20>