

Management of psychosis in the elderly : The science and art

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Dealing with elderly psychiatric patient needs high degree of talented skills and cautious approach. Special issues should be considered in treating them such as the sensory deficit, other physical comorbidity, polypharmacy, cognitive impairment and miscompliance. Continued use of antipsychotic drugs may produce side effects and its discontinuation may lead to relapse, the possible solution are to maintain medications on flexible, low dosages and to use antipsychotic with low risk of side effects. Antipsychotic medications are part of a comprehensive plan that includes psychosocial management. Enhanced pharmacotherapy offers better outcome, less family burden and finding ways to restore psychosocial reintegration. Strategies for management recovery in elderly psychotic patients should be directed towards minimizing duration of untreated psychosis by early diagnosis, humanizing in-patient admission, seeking and treating secondary problems.