

Combined presentation of depression and demential behavior in elderly patients done

Refaat, Y. Y.

Alex. Univ. (EGY). Fac. of Med.

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The study was made to study and identify the presence of depression and demential behavior, as well as to assess the presence and degree of their combined presentation among the aged. Forty-five elderly subjects and 20 depressed young adults with no present or past history of any severe somatic disorder were subjected to standard psychiatric and physical examination, social investigation, as well as the Arabic version of B.D.I. (Beck Depression Inventory) and M.O.S.E.S. (Multidimensional Observation Scale for Elderly Subjects). Demential behavior was more prevalent in severely depressed elderly than in elderly with less severe depression, and than severely depressed young adults. Depressive pseudo dementia was found in 8.9% of the geriatric sample and the patients' demential behavior improved with antidepressant therapy. Depression and demential behavior occurred together in about one fifth to one half of the geriatric sample and depression was found to occur with decreasing frequency as dementia was more severe.