

Professionals' perspectives on problem behavior in Dutch Geriatric Rehabilitation: a semi-structured interview study

Introduction

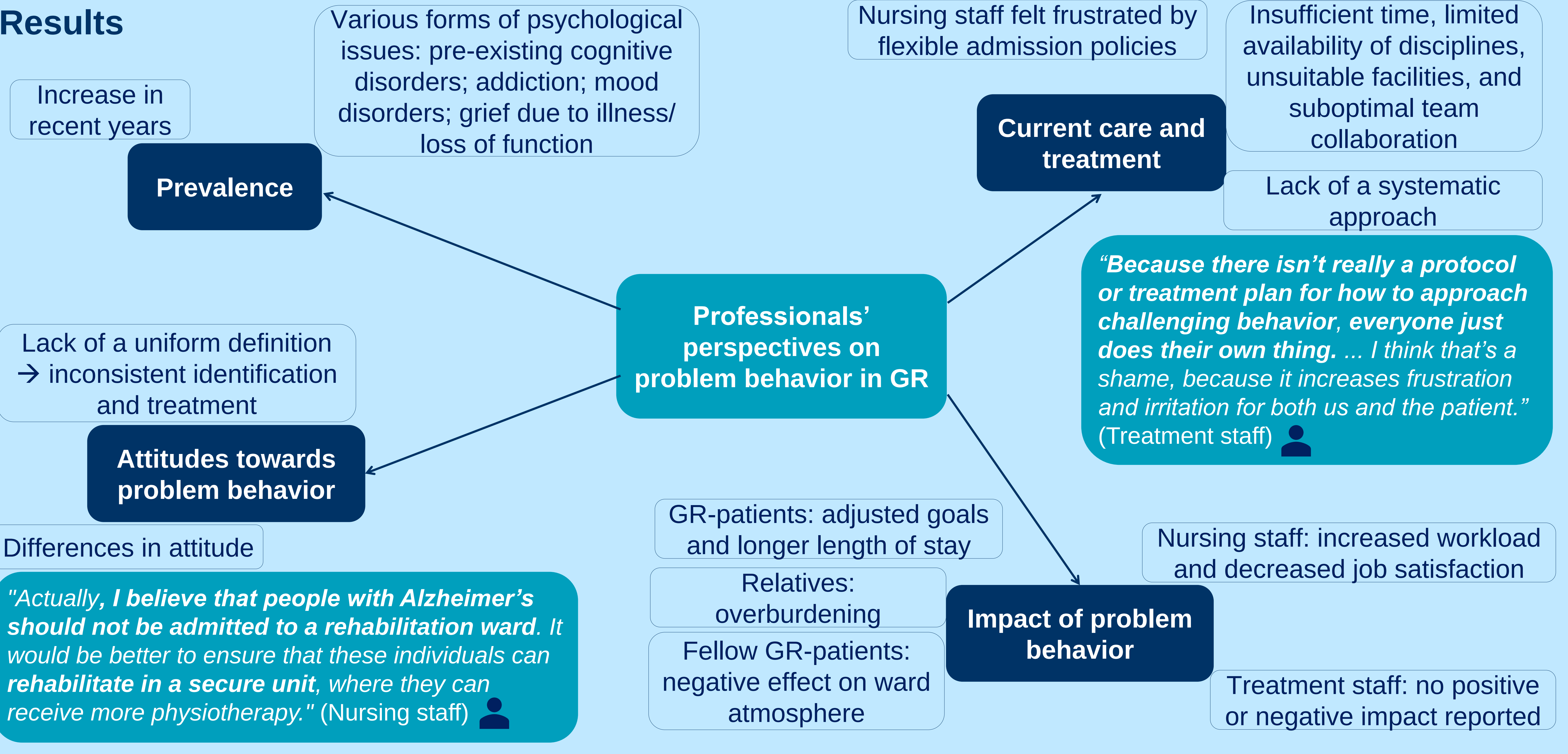
- Geriatric Rehabilitation (GR) primarily targets somatic and functional recovery, yet many patients exhibit psychological distress, often characterized as problem behavior.
- An increasing number of GR patients have cognitive problems, neuropsychiatric symptoms, and addiction-related issues.¹ These behavioral challenges can reduce quality of life for both patients and family caregivers and hindering current somatic rehabilitation goals.²
- Patients with problem behavior are increasingly excluded from GR.³

Methods

-  Qualitative research design
-  1 Dutch GR ward with size of 24 beds
-  17 individual semi-structured interviews with professionals (9 nursing staff, 8 treatment staff)
-  September 2024 – October 2024
-  Audio recordings and verbatim description, inductive coding

Research question: How do GR professionals perceive the care and treatment of rehabilitation patients with problem behavior, and what support and resources are needed to improve it?

Results



References

- Van den Besselaar J, et al., Varen op ervaringen van zorgvragers, mantelzorgers en zorgverleners in geriatrische revalidatie (GRZ), eerstelijnsverblijf (ELV) en geneeskundige zorg voor specifieke patiëntgroepen (GZSP). 2021.
- Buijck BI, et al., Neuropsychiatric symptoms in geriatric patients admitted to skilled nursing facilities in nursing homes for rehabilitation after stroke: a longitudinal multicenter study. Int J Geriatr Psychiatry, 2012. 27: p. 734-741.
- Bakker TJEM, Van Dijk H., Geriatrische revalidatie voor patiënten met gedragsproblemen. Uitwerking slotverklaring werkconferentie van 3 september 2021 te Den Bosch. 2022.

Research limitations

- Limited international literature on problem behavior in GR.
- Dutch study; findings may have limited generalizability to other European countries.

Conclusions

- GR professionals face substantial challenges in the care and treatment of patients with problem behavior and their relatives.
- The current organization of GR is not adequately equipped for patients with problem behavior.
- The findings highlight the need for implementing and further developing evidence-based methods, to effectively address the needs of these patients.
- Additional European research is recommended within the EuGMS-special interest group.

Contact:

- w.m.f.verstraeten-de_keuninck@lumc.nl
- njansen03@aafje.nl