Detection of Distinct Neuropsychiatric Symptom Clusters at Early versus Late Stages of Alzheimer’s Disease

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Results (cont.)

• NPS clustering patterns were similar between the MCI/Mild and Moderate/Severe subject groups, with a distinct depressive cluster and a distinct psychotic cluster.
• Irritability/Frustration was more associated with Low Mood and less associated with Aggression in the MCI/Mild stages of dementia.
• Irritability/Frustration was more associated with Aggression and less associated with Low Mood in the Moderate/Severe stages of dementia.
• Sleep disturbances was associated with the depressive cluster in MCI/Mild subjects, and the psychotic cluster in Moderate/Severe dementia subjects.
• Restlessness was not found to be associated in either cluster, while Appetite was found to only be part of the psychotic cluster in Moderate/Severe dementia.

Conclusions

• Four different analytical methods highlighted two subgroups of neuropsychiatric symptoms.
• Staging based on function and dependence corresponded to the observed clusters.
• People with MCI/Mild dementia most often showed symptoms of depression and mild executive dysfunction.
• Those with moderate/severe dementia experienced more severe behavioural symptoms.
• These symptom groupings are consistent with our prior understanding of staging, based on untreated patients.

References


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