

Dementia Patients' Responses to Videoed Family Histories

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: The aim of this study was to a) to construct life history videos of persons with dementia, and b) evaluate the patient and caregiver's responses to observing their videoed life stories. **Methods:** Five family caregivers of persons with dementia agreed to participate with informed, signed consent. Each caregiver provided information about the relative's life through stories, still pictures, and home videos. Using video editing software a preliminary 20 minute video history was constructed. The video was shown to the caregiver and based on their feedback revisions were made. Next the video was shown to the relative with dementia and her/his verbal and non-verbal responses were filmed for subsequent analyses. Each caregiver was given a copy of the video history and was instructed to show the video to the relative twice a week and record their observations of the relative's responses. Three month and six month follow up interviews were conducted with each caregiver. **Results:** Content analysis of the caregiver notes and the follow up interviews showed that their relatives' overall response to viewing the video histories was positive as indicated in both verbal and non-verbal reactions. Working with the families to develop the video histories had a significant impact on interpersonal family relationships. Caregivers reported, a) positive reflections on past family experiences, b) re-evaluation and reconnection with the relative, and c) greater acceptance of their relative's dementia.

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