



KEY POINT SUMMARY

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this study was to see if patients in a home-like environment like a group home experienced less cognitive decline than patients who lived in a long-term care facility.

DESIGN IMPLICATIONS

The strong literature review emphasized the positive implications that home-like environments can have on patients with varying kinds of dementia. While this study was not as telling as the authors had hoped, it is important to note that the home-like environment and the consistency of residents may have slowed the cognitive decline of participants.

Eight years of data on residents in small dementia-care settings suggest functional performance is maintained.

Milke, D. L., Leask, J., George, C., & Ziolkowski, S. 2015 | *Journal of Housing For the Elderly*. Volume 29, Issue 3, Pages 298-328

Key Concepts/Context

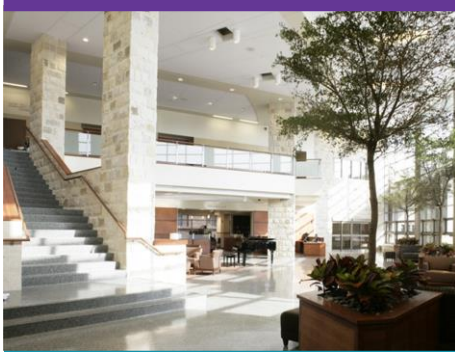
The authors of this study note the impact of a home-like environment on the cognitive decline of dementia patients.

Methods

Researchers gathered data on patients who were living in an Alzheimer Care Center (ACC). They collected demographic information from September 2002 – August 2009. A total of 314 residents were included. Additional data was collected using the Functional Autonomy Measurement System and the Mini Mental State Examination. Data was collected annually, entered into SPSS, and compared using ANOVA tests and Post hoc Tukey HSD tests. Independent T-tests were calculated. Stepwise regression was performed to determine any relationship between 3MS and SMAF scores and a resident's length of stay in the ACC. Pearson correlations were calculated to determine any relationships between residents' MMSE and SMAF scores, as well as age and length of stay. Cohen's kappa was used to determine the level of agreement between raters for the SMAF assessment, while Spearman's correlations described the consistency between raters of the 3MS and MMSE.

Findings

The lack of significant decline in cognitive functioning of the residents confounded the results of the study. The researchers were notably surprised and shocked at the lack of variation among residents across the 9-year study period.



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Limitations

Staff “charted by exception” so that only exceptional circumstances were documented, making it difficult for researchers to catch day-to-day nuances among residents. The sample site was relatively small.

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