Behavioral modifications in the elderly and driving



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• There is little evidence that psychiatric illness results in dangerous driving (Raffle, 1985)

- 25% of drivers in accidents are impaired
 - Alcohol
 - Drugs
 - Emotional disorder

Cremona, 1996

- Little evidence that schizophrenics are more dangerous than controls
- 10% of accident drivers have suicidal ideation
- Patients with anxiety disorders have 50% more accidents
- After dementia the most dangerous disorders are mania and hypomania, severe depression, personality disorders

Silverstone, 1988

Personality disorders

- Male patients have 6 times as many car accidents as controls (Elkema, 1970)
- The most dangerous drivers are patients with
 - Aggression
 - Impulsiveness
 - Intolerance
 - Feel alienation from the society

Gibbons, 1976

Gulliver, 2007

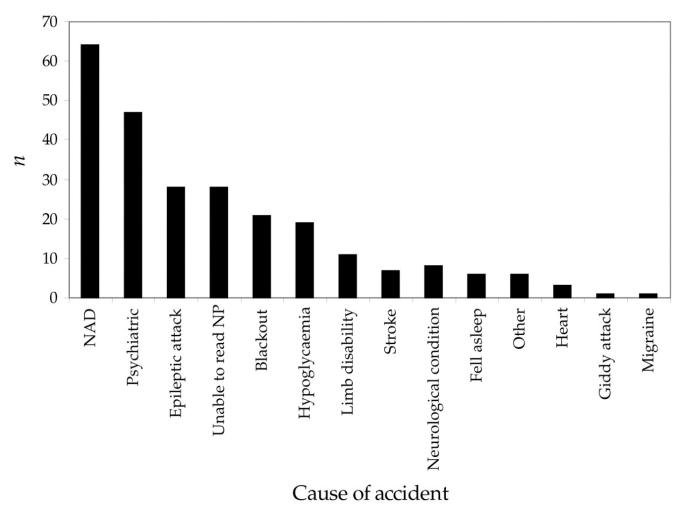
Suicidal ideation and driving

• 5.9% of fatal driver accidents are suicides

• In 4% of cases the crash led to death of another person

Ohberg, 1997

Analysis of about 25% of police notifications in 1995. n, number of reports (total = 250).

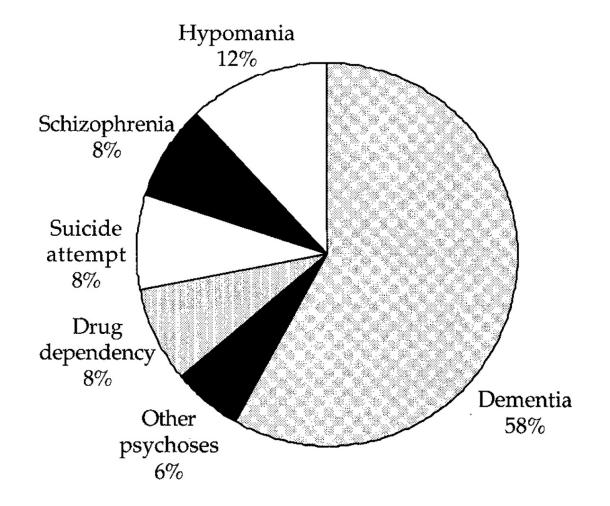


Harris M APT 2000;6:261-269

Psychiatric Treatmer

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Psychiatric disorders identified on police reports as the cause of road traffic accidents.



Harris M APT 2000;6:261-269



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ADHD and driving

- ADHD sufferers have
 - 2-4 times more car accidents than controls
 - 3 times more injuries
 - 6-8 times more likely to have their licenses suspended
 - ADHD affects 10.3% of young children (population studies)
 - The prevalence decreases with age (4.4% in adults)
 - Many ADHD patients through adulthood manifest
 - Anxiety disorders
 - Bipolar disorder
 - Drug and alcohol misuse
 - Anti-social behavior
 - Kessler, 2006
 - Faraone, 2003

Alcohol and other drugs in Driving

- 41% of fatally injured persons were in alcohol related car accidents
- 46% of male traffic deaths are alcohol related and 29% for females
- Only 15% of traffic deaths among adults age 65 and over

Hingson R., 2003, NIAAA

• Cannabis is the most common drug detected in drivers involved in accidents

Psychotropic medication

- Benzodiazepines are over represented in car accidents drivers
- Other drugs
 - Anti-psychotics
 - Anti-depressants (mostly the first period of use)

– Lithium

There is considerable idiosyncratic variability profile on side effects of medication

Psychiatric disorders in Third Age

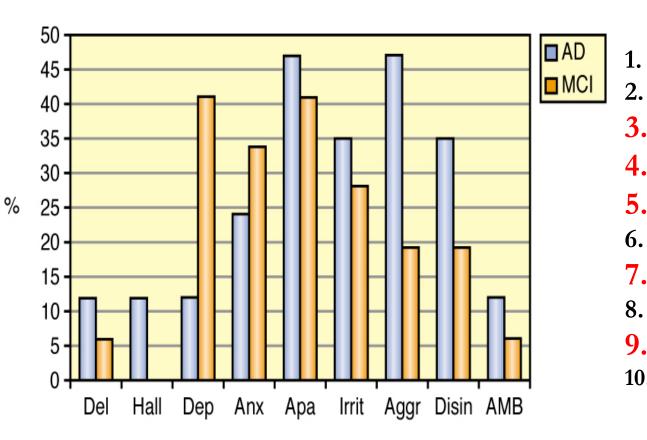
• Patients with psychiatric disorders drive fewer miles /year

- But they have 2ice the number of accidents /mile

• Many schizophrenic and bipolar patients quit driving before the age of 65 years

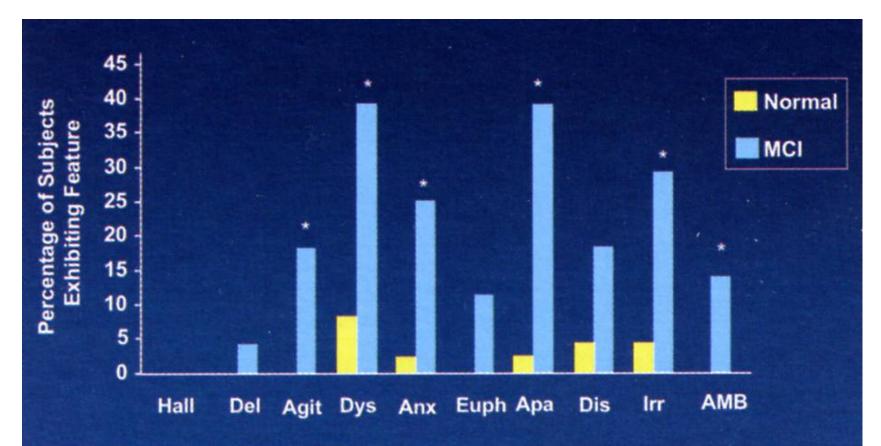
Silverstone, 1988 Cremona, 1996 Mild cognitive Impairment (MCI) Neuropsychiatric symptoms and Driving

Neuro-Psychiatric profile in Alzheimer's disease and MCI



- 1. Delusions
 - Hallucinations
- 3. Aggressiveness
- 4. Depression
- 5. Anxiety
- 6. Euphoria
- 7. Apathy
- 8. Disinhibition
- 9. Irritability
- 10. Abberrant motor behavior

Neuro-Psychiatric profile in Normal aging and MCI



UCLA clinical sample: normal controls (n = 50); MCI (n = 28) (amnestic type). *P<.05.

Hall = hallucinations; Del = delusions; Agit = agitation; Dys = dysphoria; Anx = anxiety; Euph = euphoria; Apa = apathy; Dis = disinhibition; Irr = imitability; AMB = aberrant motor behavior.

Source: Hwang TJ, et al. Alzheimer Dis Assoc Disord. 2004;18:17-21.

Irritability/Agression

- Aggressive behavior driving and accidents correlate to
 - Driving violations
 - Irritability while driving

Chliaoutakis J., 2002

Disinhibition/impulsivity

- Impulsivity correlates to
 - risky driving behavior

Shaneel B., 2013

Abberant Motor Behavior

• There is a relationship between Aberrant Behavior and self reported Accidents amongst professional bus drivers

Sakineh V., 2013

Anoso-agnosia in MCI and AD

• The diagnosis of anosognosia is frequent in patients with mild AD but not in those with MCI Orfei MD, 2010

• Anosognosia is a Significant Predictor of Apathy in Alzheimer's Disease

Starkstein S., 2010

Conclusions

• Psychiatric disorders probably affect driving

• Neuro-psychiatric symptoms in MCI and AD correlate to car accidents and risky driving behavior





