Practise observed

Practise Research

Do general practitioners "miss" depression in elderly patients?

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Abstract

The results of several studies have indicated that general practitioners are poor judges of psychiatric disorder in elderly patients. However, the reasons for this are not clear. This study was undertaken to compare the performance of general practitioners in identifying depression in elderly patients with the performance of a psychiatrist.

Methods

A general practitioner was asked to assess a group of elderly patients suffering from depression. A psychiatric assessment of the same patients was then undertaken. The findings of both assessments were then compared.

Results

The general practitioners were found to be less accurate in identifying depression than the psychiatrist. However, the reasons for this are not clear.

Discussion

The results of this study indicate that general practitioners may be poor judges of psychiatric disorder in elderly patients. However, the reasons for this are not clear.

References

100 YEARS AGO

Prescribing information to patients

Susan Clayton

The context between the prescriber, with whom many drugs are prescribed, and the patient is, in many ways, the context for managing a miscellany of disorders or to discuss the means by which prescription information is given. The context is a complex one, and the role of the prescriber is equally complex.

In this context, it is important to consider the role of the drug as a means of managing a disease or symptom. The role of the drug is to provide relief from symptoms or to prevent disease progression. The decision to prescribe a drug is based on the benefit it offers to the patient, and the prescriber's role is to ensure that the drug is prescribed appropriately.

Prescriptions should be clear and concise, and should include information about the dose, frequency, and duration of use. The prescriber should also consider the potential side effects of the drug and any interactions with other medications.

In conclusion, prescribing information to patients is an important aspect of clinical practice. It is essential to ensure that patients are adequately informed about their medications, and that the prescriber's role is to provide clear and concise information about the treatment options available.