

Collateral History Aiding Earlier Dementia Diagnosis

Background

- ❖ During the pandemic, diagnosing Dementia had declined significantly by over 35%.
- ❖ A Collateral history refers to information obtained from individuals other than the patient, such as family members, friends, or caregivers.
- ❖ This information is often crucial and can provide valuable insights into a patient's medical history, symptoms, behaviours, and social circumstances.
- ❖ Studies have proven a collateral history can enhance medical assessment, improve treatment planning, aids safety concerns and act as a diagnostic aid.
- ❖ By obtaining information from multiple sources, Doctors can compare the patient's account with the observations and experiences of others. This can help in corroborating or identifying discrepancies, leading to a more accurate diagnosis.

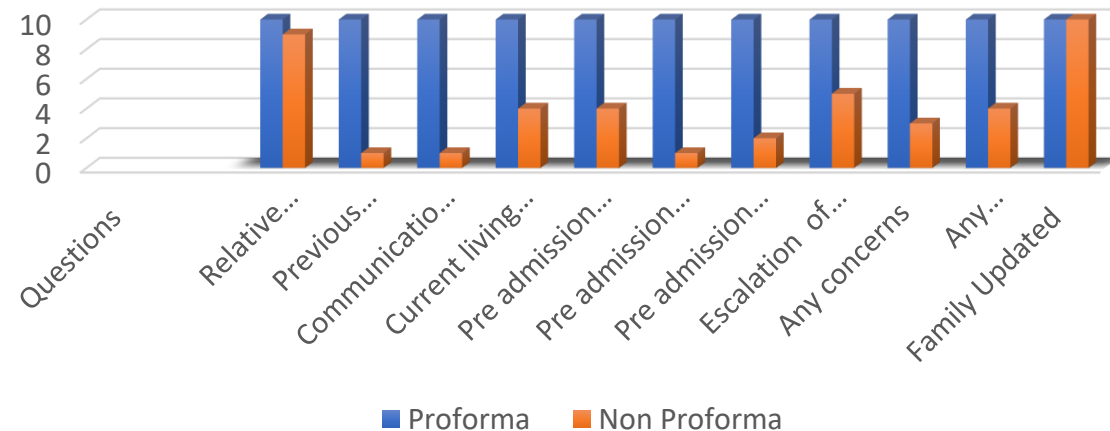
Method

A convenient sample of 20 patients investigating the benefit of introducing a collateral history proforma using it as enhanced information to aid diagnosis of dementia earlier, and in turn, commencing treatment earlier.



Results

Proforma Vs Non Proforma when obtaining a collateral history



- Results showed the collateral history provided more information enabling diagnosis of a delirium or a diagnosis of dementia.
- If it appeared the diagnosis was dementia, the information was relayed in a multiple disciplinary approach and with multidisciplinary agreement, treatment commenced.

Conclusion

- Early diagnosis of dementia is crucial as it allows for timely intervention, better disease management, and improved quality of life for both patients and their families.
- Collateral history aids in this process by capturing subtle changes in cognition and behaviour that may not be evident during routine clinical assessments.
- It provides a broader perspective on the patient's functioning over time and helps differentiate between normal aging and pathological cognitive decline.
- It is important to consider the collateral history limitations as a tool and use it in conjunction with other diagnostic tools to ensure an accurate and comprehensive evaluation

