Risperidone Eases Some Symptoms of Dementia

**Dose of about 1 mg per day brings improvements, but risk of cerebrovascular events rises threefold.**

*by jeff evans*  
*senior writer*

**Stockholm** — Clinicians shy away from disclosing a diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment and its potential to convert to Alzheimer’s disease.

They also differ in how they word the disclosure when they opt to share the diagnosis with their patients or relatives. For their part, families may not want patients to know when they have been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease.

"In dementia, disclosure is not common clinical practice"—only about 15% of professionals disclose the diagnosis to patients—"but there seems to be a trend toward more openness about the diagnosis," said Eline Derksen, R.N., a researcher at the Alzheimer’s center at St. Radboud University Medical Center, Nijmegen, the Netherlands. But in contrast to several studies of disclosing a diagnosis of dementia, no studies have been published about disclosing a diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment (MCI).

Ms. Derksen discussed the responses of physicians who completed an optional appendix to a questionnaire that was a part of the Dutch Cooperative Clinical Research on Predementia (DECRPA) (Development of Screening Guidelines and Diagnostic Criteria for Predementia Alzheimer’s Disease) multicenter study.

The study included patients with suspected MCI. In discussions with 101 patients with MCI or possible early dementia, physicians told 28% that they had MCI, 62% that they had abnormal memory or cognitive problems, 4% that they had worsening symptoms or depression plus memory problems, 3% that they had normal memory problems or forgetfulness, 2% that they had amnesic symptoms, and 1% that they had mixed vascular dementia.

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Most Clinicians Opt Not to Disclose Dementia Diagnosis

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