

Abstract:

In patients with memory care disorders, discrepancies often exist between self-assessments of mood and functional status, and ratings provided by their caregivers on their behalf. In these patients, self-ratings of functional status appear to remain static over time, as do the prevalence of depression and anxiety symptoms in this patient population in general as dementia progresses. However, the relationship between cognitive status, functional status, and caregiver/patient discrepancies is still poorly characterized. Here, we analyzed standardized survey data from clinical visits of 1361 different patients as a part of routine clinical care. Discrepancies between patients and their caregivers in ratings of patient mood were created by taking scores from the Patient Health Questionnaire and the Generalized Anxiety Disorder Questionnaire filled out by patients about themselves, and subtracting them from the depression and anxiety subscales of the Neuropsychiatric Inventory Questionnaire, which were filled out by caregivers on the patient's behalf. Using a mixed effects modeling approach, larger discrepancies in caregiver rating of patient anxiety and patient depression were associated with more caregiver burnout and poorer functional status of patients. However, these discrepancies were not significantly predictive of Montreal Cognitive Assessment scores, suggesting that discrepancies between patients and their caregivers are more associated with functional status and disability as opposed to purely being related to patient cognition.