



FROM THE WEBSITE

CareSearch Review Collection

Thirty-two reviews have been added to the CareSearch Review Collection during November 2010.

- > Mitchell AJ, Meader N, Symonds P. [Diagnostic validity of the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale \(HADS\) in cancer and palliative settings: a meta-analysis](#). J Affect Disord. 2010 Nov;126(3):335-48

This review examined the validity of the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) in the identification of psychiatric complications of cancer against semi-structured psychiatric interview. The HADS and its subscales had both strengths and limitations and appeared to perform marginally better in non-palliative cancer settings. The authors indicated that it was not suitable as a case-finding instrument but it may be a suitable addition to screening programme.



THIRTY-TWO REVIEWS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE CARESEARCH REVIEW COLLECTION DURING NOVEMBER 2010.

- > Hudson PL, Trauer T, Graham S, Grande G, Ewing G, Payne S, Stajduhar KI, Thomas K. [A systematic review of instruments related to family caregivers of palliative care patients](#). Palliat Med. 2010 Oct;24(7):656-68. Epub 2010 Jul 6.

Support for family caregivers is a core function of palliative care. However, there is a lack of consistency in the way needs are assessed, few longitudinal studies to examine the impact of caregiving, and a dearth of evidence-based interventions. There is considerable variability in the instruments used with family caregivers and the validity of some requires further consideration

- > Yang Q, Xie DR, Jiang ZM, Ma W, Zhang YD, Bi ZF, Chen DL. [Efficacy and adverse effects of transdermal fentanyl and sustained-release oral morphine in treating moderate-severe cancer pain in Chinese population: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#). J Exp Clin Cancer Res. 2010 Jun 9;29:67.

32 cohort studies, which included 2651 patients, were included in the present study. This review reported that both transdermal fentanyl and oral morphine had the same efficacy in the treatment of moderate-severe cancer pain in the Chinese population, but the former might have less adverse effects and better quality of life.

- > Chrisman CA. [Care of chronic wounds in palliative care and end-of-life patients](#). Int Wound J. 2010 Aug;7(4):214-35.

Wound-related symptoms included pain, exudate, malodour, infection, bleeding, dressing comfort and negative psychological and social functioning. Best care wound practices were formulated for each wound type to ease suffering.

- > Dorman S, Perkins P. [Droperidol for treatment of nausea and vomiting in palliative care patients](#).

Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2010 Oct 6;10:CD006938.

Several studies reported on the use of droperidol for the prevention of nausea and vomiting associated with chemotherapy but only one of these included only patients in the palliative stage of their illness. As yet there is insufficient evidence to advise on the use of droperidol for the management of nausea and vomiting in palliative care.

New Research Studies

If you have a study you would like to share with the palliative care community please download the [Research Studies proforma](#) and email the completed form to caresearch@flinders.edu.au.

Christmas Closure

The CareSearch office will be closed for Christmas from lunch time Friday 24th December 2010 until Tuesday 4th January 2011.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE PALLIATIVE CARE COMMUNITY?

Annual Evidence Update:

Supportive and palliative care in chronic lung disease

This [Annual Evidence Update](#) addresses supportive and palliative care issues in people with chronic respiratory disease and will focus on two of the most important issues for patients with pulmonary problems, dyspnoea and cough.

THIS ANNUAL EVIDENCE UPDATE ADDRESSES SUPPORTIVE AND PALLIATIVE CARE ISSUES IN PEOPLE WITH CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISEASE...

Palliative Care Helpline

The Palliative Care Information Service (PCIS) name has been changed to [Palliative Care Helpline](#), with the approval of Queensland Health in August 2010. The service is now operated by palliative care nurses, social workers and counsellors.

Annual Evidence Update on End of Life Care

NHS Evidence - commissioning and NHS Evidence - innovation and improvement are jointly presenting an evidence [update on end of life care](#). It aims to bring together up-to-date knowledge and evidence on issues related to the quality of care for those approaching the end of their life and their carers.

Launch of eviQ Opioid Conversion Calculator

eviQ has released an online [Opioid Conversion Calculator](#). The eviQ opioid calculator provides clinicians with an online tool to allow accurate conversion of one opioid regimen to an approximately equianalgesic dose of another.

Research

NHMRC Grants Awarded

Funding for 745 research projects across Australia have been announced by the NHMRC. Of particular interest to palliative care are two projects

- > A double-blind randomised controlled multi-site study of sertraline compared with placebo for refractory breathlessness (Professor David Currow)
- > A multi-site randomised controlled trial comparing the severity of constipation symptoms experienced by palliative care patients receiving usual care compared to those diagnosed and managed according to the underlying pathophysiology (Associate Professor Katy Clark)

Trip Fellow

Mrs Carol Hope has been awarded a Translating Research Into Practice Fellowship from NHMRC to look at Improving Pain for Community Based Palliative Care Patients with Advanced Cancer.

NHMRC Project Grant Applications

The opening date for NHMRC Project Grant applications for funding commencing in 2012 will be Monday 13 December 2010 and the closing date is Tuesday 8 March 2011, 17:00 AEDT.

Cancer Australia Grants

The NHMRC manages the registration and assessment of grant applications for the Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme. Applications for the 2011 round of the Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme will open in early December 2010.



CONFERENCES

A number of international conferences are looking at specific palliative care issues in 2011. They include:

Conference: [Continuous sedation at the end of life: Ethical perspectives](#)

Date: March 11-12 2011

Location: Ghent, Belgium

Conference: [6th WIP World Pain Congress](#)

Date: April 29-May 1 2011

Location: Seoul, South Korea

Conference: [International Society of Advance Care Planning and End of Life Care Conference](#)

Date: June 22-24 2011

Location: London, United Kingdom

Conference: [9th International Conference on Grief and Bereavement in Contemporary Society and Association for Death Education and Counseling 33rd Annual Conference](#)

Date: June 21-25 2011

Location: Miami, Florida

You can find out more about what is happening with conferences by checking the [Conference](#) page.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Many services and organisations are making use of the CareSearch promotional materials and have ordered factsheets or brochures for staff, patients and for their families. Materials can also be ordered for education and training activities.

You can view all the [CareSearch promotional resources](#) on the website and download an order form. All enquiries regarding our promotional materials can be directed to Natasha Schembri via email at natasha.schembri@flinders.edu.au.

Desk Calendars

We have a limited number of fold up CareSearch desk calendars that can be ordered. Please email caresearch@flinders.edu.au with your name and postal address if you would like one.

If you are faxing promotional orders to us, please make sure you use our new fax number.

> Facsimile: (08) 7221 8238

February 2011 Newsletter

The next newsletter will be circulated on the first Monday in February 2011. If you have any item you would like to have considered for inclusion please send details one week prior to the circulation date to natasha.schembri@flinders.edu.au.



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