

Introduction: Pet companionship plays a pivotal role in the lives of older couples, significantly influencing their intimate relationships, by fostering deeper connections and enhancing mental well-being.

Objectives: This study has two aims: (1) to explore the impact of pet companionship on the intimacy of older couples; and (2) to examine its influence on their mental health.

Methods: This study included 223 older couples aged between 65 and 94 years. To explore the multifaceted role of pets in their relationship, content analysis was conducted on all interviews.

Results: Their experiences shed light on the significance of this bond for promoting healthy and fulfilling intimate relationships, with the following themes: (1) contributing to emotional well-being (87.3%), (2) improving mental health in later life (83.1%), (3) fostering a deep relationship between couples (78.7%), (4) facilitating the formation of new emotional connections with others (72.1%), and (5) boosting physical and sensory functions (67.2%).

Conclusions: The findings emphasize the diverse advantages of pet companionship among older adults. These include enhancing emotional well-being, bolstering mental health, fostering interpersonal bonds, and improving physical capacities. These insights underscore the potential for integrating pet interventions into comprehensive strategies aimed at promoting the overall quality of life for older individuals.

Keywords: Pet companionship; intimate relationships; mental health; older couples; well-being.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPV1178

When care turns to harm: Unveiling abusive behaviors of older towards their caregivers

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Introduction: Violent, abusive, and harmful behavior enacted by older adults upon their caregivers represents a distressing and frequently disregarded facet within the domain of caregiving.

Objectives: This qualitative study aims to 1) explore family caregivers' experiences of violent, abusive, and harmful behavior by the older person and 2) explore how violent, abusive, and harmful behavior by the older person affects family caregivers' mental health.

Methods: This qualitative study encompassed 307 participants, with a diverse age range spanning from 65 to 87 years. All the interviews went through the process of content analysis.

Results: For the first objective, findings indicated six emerging themes: Persistent and intense verbal abuse (79.1%); Subjugation and manipulation by older adults (72.5%); Unexpected illicit activities initiated by older adults (62.1%); Financial exploitation by older adults (39.8%); Physical abuse (31.5%); and Sexual abuse (30.7%). The second objective highlighted four themes: High levels of anxiety and depression (87.9%), Intense rage (79.4%), Feelings of moral isolation (77.4%), and Intense explosions (63.6%). Brazilian participants mainly experienced persistent and intense verbal abuse (64.1%). Moreover, higher levels of depression and anxiety were mainly verbalized by English participants (81.8%).

Conclusions: These findings underscore the significant toll that older individuals' violent, abusive, and harmful behavior can have on the mental well-being of family caregivers. This study sheds light on the complex experiences faced by family caregivers and emphasizes the urgent need for targeted interventions to foster healthier caregiving environments.

Keywords: Carers; family caregivers; mental health; older adults; violent, abusive and harmful behavior.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPV1179

Discrimination and Elder Abuse Toward Elderly LGBT Individuals: A Systematic Review

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Introduction: Despite increasing social acceptance over the past two decades, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals continue to face unequal treatment in society (Institute of Medicine, 2011; Caceres et al., 2020). Elderly LGBT adults include the population of sexual and gender minorities over the age of 50 (Choi et al., 2016). They continue their lives under the shadow of negative societal stereotypes and assumptions about their physical and mental health, sexuality, sexual lives, and ability to contribute to society, as well as their family and societal values. When individuals find themselves at the intersection of being elderly and LGBT, they encounter a combined situation that leads to an increased risk of discrimination, social exclusion, and violence. Over time, this can lead to high levels of depression, anxiety, loneliness, and other mental health issues. When they are not accepted by social circles, it often results in social isolation and loneliness. (Geneva, 2023)

Objectives: The aim of this study is to examine the challenges faced by elderly LGBT individuals by addressing issues of discrimination and elder abuse. By evaluating the extent to which current services meet the needs of these individuals, it aims to propose solutions from the perspective of social equality and human rights.

Methods: The study was conducted between December 2024 and February 2025 using the keywords "elderly," "elderly LGBT individuals," and "LGBT discrimination" "elder abuse" in databases (PubMed, Scopus, Springer, etc.). These databases have been preferred because they contain a significant amount of evidence-based literature in the field of psychology. Studies conducted between 2000 and 2024, with full texts accessible and written in Turkish and English, have been included in the study

Results: As of November 2024, 28 national and international research articles related to the subject have been reached. The literature review is ongoing. When the literature review is completed, all the study results will be presented together.

Conclusions: The human rights violations, discrimination, social exclusion, and risk of violence faced by elderly LGBT individuals are not only individual but also societal issues. Developing policies that are sensitive to the needs of elderly LGBT individuals in social services, healthcare services, and the legal system is an important step toward improving their physical, mental, and social health.

Awareness-raising activities need to be expanded to reduce stigma and discrimination against elderly LGBT individuals in society. Additionally, establishing LGBT-friendly elderly care centers and strengthening social support networks are crucial to preventing social isolation. In conclusion, achieving a more inclusive, equal, and fair society is only possible by respecting the rights of every individual.

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EPV1181

Psychological burden, feelings of loneliness and life satisfaction in old age

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Introduction: As the world population continues to age, understanding the psychological well-being of older people is becoming increasingly vital. Among the various aspects affecting their quality of life, psychological distress, feelings of loneliness and life satisfaction stand out as key dimensions to explore. With age, individuals face a multitude of physical, social and emotional changes that can significantly affect their overall well-being. Consequently, examining the complex relationship between these factors provides valuable insights for promoting healthy ageing and improving the overall quality of life of older people. Psychological distress, often resulting from a range of factors such as chronic health conditions, cognitive decline and social isolation, can manifest itself in various forms, such as anxiety, depression and stress.

Objectives: To investigate the correlation between psychological burden (depression, anxiety, and stress), feeling of loneliness and satisfaction with life among elderly.

Methods: The sample consisted of 148 elderly people over 65 years old. The research instruments used were a) the Depression Anxiety Stress Scale-21, b) the Life Satisfaction Index, c) The UCLA Loneliness Scale, and d) the Athens Insomnia Scale (AIS).

Results: There is a statistically significant association between engagement in domestic activities and a reduction in depressive symptoms. The frequency of children's visits and the presence of social support networks significantly influence psychological burden. Those who received infrequent or no visits from their children exhibited higher levels of depression. Loneliness was affected by family interactions, and life satisfaction was influenced by gender and education. Participants who had people in their immediate environment helping them with daily needs reported reduced depressive symptoms. Finally, the study revealed statistically significant differences in reported life satisfaction based on participants' gender and educational level.

Conclusions: These findings emphasize the need for personalized interventions that acknowledge the complex interplay of these factors in shaping the mental health of older adults.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPV1182

Capgras syndrome in an elderly patient with severe organic comorbidities and aggression: a case report

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Introduction: Capgras syndrome is a rare syndrome characterized by a false belief that an identical duplicate has replaced someone significant to the patient. It is widely regarded as the most prevalent of the delusional misidentification syndromes and appears in psychiatric and non-psychiatric cases, including organic disorders.

Objectives: To present a case report of 84 years old male patient with severe organic comorbidities who developed Capgras syndrome.

Methods: Psychiatric interview

Results: An 84-year-old male patient came to the first psychiatric examination accompanied by his son, due to the suspicion and hostility he has been showing towards his wife for the past month. A few days before the examination, patient became extremely aggressive in the evening hours, he accused his wife that she was not his wife, that another person had been framed instead of her, he demanded that she show him her identity card and threatened to report her to the police. The wife locked herself in the bathroom in fear, but the patient broke down the door. Neighbors called the police, who then restrained him. The patient calmed down after that, but wife went to live with her son. During the examination, patient was completely calm and cooperative, with a neat appearance, oriented, his thought process was normal, conversation was conducted adequately in the desired direction. When asked about thought content he dissimulated it by stating that he was angry because his wife often hangs out with other women and doesn't pay enough attention to him. He denied the presence of hallucinations. Affect was stable, cognitive capacities seemed appropriate for his age. Patient has been treated for several organic comorbidities, including prostate cancer, which was removed a few years ago, but due to problems with urination after surgery he wears a permanent catheter. He was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation and diabetes. He had a heart attack a year ago, when a stent was implanted, while a bypass was implanted 12 years ago. Laboratory findings indicate elevated glucose and HbA1c values while other parameters are within reference values. He takes all prescribed medicine alone and on time. I diagnose Capgras syndrome and did psychoeducation. Patient showed an interest in taking medication and a desire for his wife to come back to live with him. Low doses of typical antipsychotic was prescribed, which led to cessation of psychomotor restlessness and harmonization of sleep rhythms. Further neuroradiological diagnostics and regular internist follow-up were recommended.

Conclusions: Previous studies showed the link between Capgras syndrome and aggression, which this case report confirms. Probable basis for emergence of this form of delusional disorder is this patient in not dementia, but rather the consequence of serious organic comorbidities. Further diagnostic processing is in progress.

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