

Pain in the Elderly

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Pain is a common problem in the older adults. In this heterogeneous population, co-existing medical conditions, physiological changes in aging and variability in drug metabolism, impact on the presentation, assessment, and management of pain.

Despite the increased prevalence of pain in the elderly, they are often under-treated. The older adults with cognitive impairment are most likely to have their pain underdiagnosed or be mistaken for symptoms of dementia.

Furthermore, clinical trials comparing the various therapeutic options for pain management often exclude older adults. The evidence to guide management is mostly extrapolated from younger populations, adding to the challenge of managing pain successfully in the older adults.

This talk will discuss some of the unique considerations in the diagnosis and management of pain in the older person.