

# ABSTRACT WINTERMEETING 2011

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<b>Presentation:</b> <input type="radio"/> oral <input type="checkbox"/> xx poster
<b>Title:</b> Results of the SATISFIE-study: Symptom Assessment To Improve Symptom control For Institutionalised Elderly
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<b>Abstract:</b> <p><b>Purpose:</b> Symptom evaluation is important for optimal treatment of institutionalised elderly. There are almost no assessment tools for this population. This study aimed to further validate and describe the results of the SATISFIE-scale (a recently developed instrument for symptom assessment in institutionalised elderly at the end of life).</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> The scale, based on a numeric VAS, includes 11 symptoms, selected by literature review and expert opinion. These symptoms were rated on day 0 and day 1 by 51 palliative (cases) and 145 non-palliative (controls) elderly. Nurses also completed the instrument at day 0.</p> <p><b>Results:</b> Scoring from 0 to 10, “fatigue” (cases) and “spirituality” (cases and controls) had a mean of 4 or higher. The means were significantly different for “breathlessness”, “respiratory secretions”, “lack of appetite”, “fatigue” and “lack of energy”. The <i>test-retest-validity</i> was good (Pearson correlation coefficients between 0,627 and 0,891). The correlations between patients’ and nurses’ scores were much lower, especially in the control group (ranging from 0,159-0,606 for controls versus 0,202-0,784 for cases). In particular, nurses underestimated “feeling nervous” (1,7 versus 2,7) “pain” (1,2 versus 2,5) and “respiratory secretions” (0,7 versus 1,7) in the control group, and overestimated “depressed feeling” (4,5 versus 3,3) in the case group.</p> <p><b>Conclusions:</b> Symptomatology increases near the end of life. However, symptom burden is not only high in palliative patients, so more attention should be paid in non-palliative patients for fatigue and spiritual problems. Nurses underestimate pain and nervousness in non-palliative patients and overestimate depression in palliative elderly, showing the importance of self-assessment.</p>

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