Healthcare of Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities During Covid-19: Health Research and Practice

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Emerging Themes

• People with IDD experiencing mortality from Covid-19 at an earlier age (Hatton, 2020; Turk et al, 2020)

• The impact of comorbidities (Hatton, 2020; Turk et al, 2020)

• The importance of a coordinated approach to infection control and prevention (Mills et al, 2020)

• The importance of supporting families and carers in relation to monitoring of health and recognition of symptoms (Alexander et al, 2020)
Implications for Practice

• Need to understand individual and group risk factors
  • Health
  • Environment
  • Behaviour
  • Social
• Need for a focus on prevention
  • Of infection with Covid-19
  • Of comorbidities that may increase risk (for example obesity)
• Education and information
  • Of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities
  • Of families and carers
  • Of health professionals
  • Of policy makers
Some Challenges Moving Forward

- The need for better and more nuanced data
  - Including intellectual disability as a variable in national data sets and more accurate reporting of causes of death (Cuypers et al, 2020)

- Ensuring health disparities experienced by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are not further exacerbated as healthcare systems seek to address the ‘backlog’ of cancelled procedures and undetected / unmet health needs

- How best to support recovery and rehabilitation

- The balance between risk and benefit
References


