



Suicide & the Older Adult

September 2018

The Risk of Suicide With Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors in the Elderly

https://sagelink.ca/risk_of_suicide_with_SSRI_in_the_elderly

The authors explored the relationship between initiation of SSRI antidepressants and completed suicide in older adults and found that there is an increased risk of suicide within the first month of therapy in comparison to the use of other antidepressants.

Antidepressants and Suicidal Behaviour in Late Life: A Prospective Population-Based Study of use Patterns in new users Aged 75 and Above

https://sagelink.ca/antidepressants_and_suicidal_behaviour_in_late_life

The investigators examined the associations between antidepressant use patterns and the risk of fatal and non-fatal suicidal behaviours in older adults who had initiated antidepressant therapy.

Predictors of Suicide Ideation Among Older Adults with Bipolar Disorder

https://sagelink.ca/predictors_of_suicide_ideation_among_older_adults_with_BD

The investigators sought to understand if older adults with bipolar disorder (BD) are at the same level of risk of death by suicide as younger adults. Their findings suggest that BD in combination with alcohol misuse, medication non-adherence as well as cognitive difficulties predict suicide ideation in older adults with BD.

Medical Illness and the Risk of Suicide in the Elderly

https://sagelink.ca/medical_illness_and_the_risk_of_suicide_in_the_elderly

The authors explored the relationship between treatment for several illness and the risk of suicide in elderly patients using a population-based approach by analyzing records of Ontario residents aged 66 and over for a 8 year period.

Association Between Cognitive Deficits and Suicidal Ideation in Patients With Major Depressive Disorder

https://sagelink.ca/association_between_cognitive_deficits_and_suicidal_ideation_in_patients_with_MDD

This article describes a study investigating the association between cognitive function and suicidal ideation in patients with major depressive disorder.

Risk Factors for Suicide in the Elderly: What do we Know? What do we Need to Find out?

https://sagelink.ca/risk_factors_for_suicide_in_the_elderly

This information guide provides information for family, friends and others on risk factors and warning signs associated with suicide in older adults as a first step. It offers suggestions and recommendations on how to intervene in an appropriate way and seek professional help.

Suicide & the Older Adult

Suicide in Older People: What we Know and is it Preventable?

https://sagelink.ca/suicide_in_older_people_what_we_know_and_is_it_preventable

This presentation provides a comprehensive overview of suicidal risk factors, statistics and euthanasia with a particular focus on New Zealand's context.

Elderly Suicide: Risk Factors and Preventative Strategies

https://sagelink.ca/elderly_suicide_risk_factors_and_preventative_strategies

This paper reviews the evidence about the risk factors associated with suicidality among the elderly, mainly factors related with mental health illness and mainly depression, somatic illnesses, chronic pain and psychosocial factors, like social isolation, bereavement and financial problems. Interventions aiming to reduce suicide rates from a social policy and prevention perspective are included.

A Suicide Assessment of Elderly Military Veterans: Best Practice Guidelines in Long-Term Care

https://sagelink.ca/a_suicide_assessment_of_elderly_military_veterans_best_practice_guidelines_in_LTC

This publication acts as a guideline for assessing suicide in elderly military veterans in long-term care based on the evidence available.

Screening for Suicide Ideation Among Older Primary Care Patients

https://sagelink.ca/screening_for_suicide_ideation_among_older_primary_care_patients

The objective of this study was to assess whether brief screens for depression (GDS and GDS-SI) have acceptable operating characteristics in identifying suicide ideation among older primary care patients and to examine potential sex differences in the screens accuracy.

Suicide Risk in Older Adults: The Role and Responsibility of Primary Care

https://sagelink.ca/suicide_risk_in_older_adults_the_role_and_responsibility_of_primary_care

This publication reviews a number of risk factors, appropriate screening and intervention in a primary care setting.

Suicide in Older Adults: Nursing Assessment of Suicide Risk

https://www.sagelink.ca/suicide_in_older_adults_nursing_assessment_of_suicide_risk

The authors review the prevalence of suicidal behaviours in older adults and discuss the risk factors that contribute to completed suicide in these individuals.

Assessing Suicide Risk in Older Adults

https://sagelink.ca/assessing_suicide_risk_in_older_adults

This publication aims to describe risk factors, assessment areas to explore, and ways to improve treatment, primary care providers can help decrease the incidence of suicidal behaviours in older adults.

Screening for Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviours Among Older Patients Visiting the Emergency Department

https://sagelink.ca/screening_for_suicidal_thoughts_and_behaviours_among_older_patients_visiting_the_ED

The authors' findings support the need for more detailed screening for suicide risk among older adults presenting in the emergency department.

Suicide & the Older Adult

Suicide Assessment & Prevention for Older Adults

https://sagelink.ca/suicide_assessment_and_prevention_for_older_adults

This brochure overviews key points in regards to the assessment and prevention of suicide in older adults.

Suicide Prevention for Older People https://sagelink.ca/suicide_prevention_for_older_people

This training manual is designed for educators to improve the awareness of suicidal behaviour in older people. It aims to provide workers with information about early intervention and assessment strategies, and how to refer older people to appropriate services.

Promoting Emotional Health and Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for Senior Centers

https://sagelink.ca/promoting_emotional_health_and_preventing_suicide_seniors_centres

This toolkit was prepared for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and includes strategies and tools to support seniors centres to promote emotional health among seniors.

Promoting Emotional Health and Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for Senior Living Communities

https://sagelink.ca/promoting_emotional_health_and_preventing_suicide_senior_living_communities

This toolkit was prepared for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and includes strategies and tools to support seniors centres to promote emotional health among seniors.

The Role of Senior Living Community Professionals in Preventing Suicide

https://sagelink.ca/the_role_of_senior_living_community_professionals_in_preventing_suicide

This information sheet contains highlights from the Promoting Emotional Health and Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for Senior Living Communities resource.

Suicide Later in Life: Challenges and Priorities for Prevention

https://sagelink.ca/suicide_later_in_life

This study investigated strategies to decrease suicide deaths in later life.

Suicide Prevention for Older Adults in Residential Communities: Implications for Policy and Practice

https://sagelink.ca/suicide_prevention_for_older_adults_in_residential_communities

This publication overviews the problem of suicide in older adults and how healthy communities can be created using a variety of approaches. engage in hoarding behaviours.

Research to Reduce the Suicide Rate Among Older Adults: Methodology Roadblocks and Promising Paradigms

https://sagelink.ca/research_to_reduce_the_suicide_rate_among_older_adults

This publication outlines recommendations made by the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry including the identification of future research directions.

Suicide & the Older Adult

Treatment of Depression and Suicide in Older Adults

https://sagelink.ca/treatment_of_depression_and_suicide_in_older_adults

This article describes a cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT) intervention for suicide prevention in older adults. The following aspects of the treatment are described: assessing suicide risk, conceptualizing the problem through a cognitive behavioural framework, developing a safety plan, increasing hope and reasons for living, improving social resources, improving problem-solving skills and efficacy, improving adherence to medical regimen, and relapse prevention. They also review other behavioural and cognitive strategies such as activity scheduling and cognitive restructuring that are commonly associated with CBT interventions for depression. They illustrate the application of these strategies by using case studies.

Not to be Forgotten: Care of Vulnerable Canadians

https://sagelink.ca/not_to_be_forgotten

This publication by the Parliamentary Committee on Palliative and Compassionate Care advocates for the implementation of a number of recommendations related to palliative and end-of-life care, suicide prevention and elder abuse.

A Systematic Review of Physical Illness, Functional Disability, and Suicidal Behaviour Among Older Adults

https://sagelink.ca/a_systematic_review_of_physical_illness_functional_disability_and_suicidal_behaviour_among_older_adults

The investigators conducted a systematic review of studies which examined the relationship between physical illness/functional disability and suicidal behaviour (including ideation, nonfatal and fatal suicidal behaviour) among individuals aged 65 and older.

The Influence of Disability on Suicidal Behaviour

https://www.sagelink.ca/the_influence_of_disability_on_suicidal_behaviour

This research paper investigated the extent of consequences of disability and the relationship to suicidal behaviour.

Suicide Ideation in Older Adults: Relationship to Mental Health Problems and Service Use

https://www.sagelink.ca/suicide_ideation_in_older_adults_relationship_to_mental_health_problems_and_service_use

The aim of this publication were to assess the prevalence of suicide ideation among community-dwelling older adults and the relationship between suicide ideation, major psychiatric disorder and mental health service use by analyzing data from the Canadian Community Health Survey 1.2.

Trauma Exposure and Risk of Suicide Among Older Adults

https://sagelink.ca/trauma_exposure_and_risk_of_suicidal_ideation_among_older_adults

This study sought to determine if trauma exposure is associated with suicidal ideation in a nationally-representative sample of older adults.

Suicide & the Older Adult

Sleep and Suicide in Older Adults: An Opportunity for Intervention

https://sagelink.ca/sleep_and_suicide_in_older_adults

The authors investigate the treatment of sleep disorder in older adults as a suicide prevention strategy.

Associations Between Elder Mistreatment and Suicidal Ideation Among Community-Dwelling Chinese Older Adults in the USA

https://sagelink.ca/association_between_elder_mistreatment_and_suicidal_ideation_among_community-dwelling_chinese_older_adults_in_the_USA

This article describes the largest epidemiological study conducted among older Chinese adults in the USA investigating the relationship between mistreatment and suicidal ideation.

Attempted Suicide in Older People: A Review of the Evidence

https://sagelink.ca/attempted_suicide_in_older_people_a_review_of_the_evidence

This study aimed to identify and review research studies of suicide in older people published between 2005 and 2014. Content analysis investigated the relationship between biological, psychological and social factors in the context of the suicidal process.

Medically Serious and Non-Serious Suicide Attempts in Persons Aged 70 and Above

https://sagelink.ca/medically_serious_and_non-serious_suicide_attempts_in_persons_aged_70_and_above

The aim of this study was to compare clinical and psychosocial characteristics of older adults aged 70 and over who had attempted suicide.

Predictors of Suicide in Patients with Dementia

https://sagelink.ca/predictors_of_suicide_in_patients_with_dementia

This article describes a national, retrospective cohort study using data collected from the Department of Veterans Affairs focusing on patients 60 years of age and over who had a diagnosis of dementia to identify predictors of suicide.

Dementia and Suicidal Behaviour: A Review of the Literature

https://sagelink.ca/dementia_and_suicidal_behaviour_a_review_of_the_literature

The authors sought to investigate whether there was a relationship among higher rates of suicide among the elderly and the diagnosis of dementia.

A Complex Relationship Between Suicide, Dementia, and Amyloid: A Narrative Review

https://sagelink.ca/a_complex_relationship_between_suicide_dementia_and_amyloid

The investigators conducted a narrative review to identify links between suicidal behaviour, dementia and brain amyloid load while considering the role of depression in these relationships.

Suicidal Ideation and Behavior Assessment in Dementia Studies: An Internet Survey

https://sagelink.ca/suicidal_ideation_and_behavioral_assessment_in_dementia_studies

This article describes an online survey undertaken to understand the extent of suicidal ideation and/or suicidal behaviour exists among individuals diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or dementia who were participating in clinical trials.