

One of the wishes from older persons: to stay save together at home!

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Slide 1:

In our practice we were working with geriatric patients, mean age 85 years, on the geriatric wards from the general hospital AZ Damiaan, Ostend, Belgium. More then 60% from those patients are going back home. 25% from the total population have a home visit with the occupational therapist (O.T) before leaving the hospital. During that intervention the O.T. observes the possibilities from the patient and his carer(s) at home and tries to solve, together with them, their problems at home.

Slide 2: Situation.

A man with dementia (83y) lives together with his woman (81 y) in a villa. He is admitted in the hospital while his woman feels unsafe at night. They both have their own sleepingroom at the first floor, while the man is restless at night. They have no place to sleep at the groundfloor. The mens sleepingroom is nearest from the stairs. His woman is afraid that one night her husband will fall down from this stairs, while he do not use the light. She can not lock him up in his room while he comes aggressive for a closed door.

To give her her safety-feeling back we have found the following solution: in front of the door from the mens sleepingroom we have placed a movingdetector, a lamp and a bell. When he is up at night and he comes to the dooropening: the lamp lights up and the bell rings. So his woman hears that he comes out of his room. We have put the switch to set off the bell on a little distance away frm his womans bed in the neighbouring room. She is sleeping very deep. So the bells only stops when she turns the switch off. Then she is awaked to help him back to bed before he is possibly falling down from the stairs. With this simple solution she feels that she can manage the home- care for her husband at night.

Slide 3:

While the older man cannot stay too long in the hospital: we had to install this expedient very fast: fast intervention! We have solved their problem: the unsafety-feelings from the woman. The system was easy to install and the use was also easy for the woman. The solution was cheap while lots of older persons have only a little retired pay (pension).

Conclusion: we believe in a world with e- solutions for older persons, but we hope that they solve their individual problems, can be fast installed, easy to handle and are cheap... like our example!