IMPA CT OF PAIN ON THE ELDERLY

Chronic pain can have a significant impact on an elderly person, affecting all aspects of life including physical, psychological, cognitive, spiritual, and functional domains.

Pain may be complicated to manage due to multiple medical problems, multiple sources of pain and the use of multiple medications.

Optimal pain management has many benefits. It can reduce stress on the body, improve the ability to participate in activities, improve sleep and increase enjoyment of life.

The health care team considers many factors when creating a management plan for pain. The assessment of pain and its impact on an individual can be considered in terms of these personal domains:

**PHYSIOLOGICAL**
- Increased respiratory and heart rate
- Increased skeletal muscle tone leading to spasms
- Decreased intestinal motility
- Increased risk of infection
- Increased urinary retention

**FUNCTIONAL**
- Decreased quality of life
- Decline in ability to perform activities of daily living

**SPIRITUAL**
- Unfairness
- Guilt
- Hopelessness
- Demoralization
- Isolation
- Punishment
- Painful memories

**PSYCHOLOGICAL**
- Anxiety
- Fear
- Depression
- Emotional distress
- Interpersonal relationships
- Effect on pain threshold

**COGNITIVE**
- Confusion
- Disorientation
- Delirium
- Cognitive decline

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