

La Gioia Possibile nella Persona con Demenza

Leo Nahon - Milano

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Dizionario

- Gioia : stato e motivo di viva , completa , incontenibile soddisfazione
- «Gioia promette e manda Pianto , Amore !
- (U.Foscolo)

Joy, happiness, and humor in dementia care: a qualitative study:
Person M, Hanssen I (**Creative Nursing**, 2015)

- *People with advanced dementia can still enjoy life. Even if their language is impaired and they live in the moment, it should still be possible for them to live a life of pleasure and joy. A pilot study was conducted to learn more about these individuals' experiences, but because of the decline in their access to language, it was necessary to have others speak on their behalf. Analysis of findings was based on a hermeneutic approach inspired by Ricoeur (1981). Central findings were that all the interviewees emphasized humor and interacting with other people as a source of happiness.*

Organicità della gioia....

- **L'Estasi Dopaminergica (Parkins
Piangere di gioia (lo stato misto)
Gli elettrodi della gioia (area 24
di Broadman)**

Ho più soldi di Berlusconi !!

Le gioie Patologiche :

La gioia megalomane affiorante a poco a poco , timidamente ma che poi fiorisce ed esplose

- *La gioia delirante o allucinatoria e immemore*
- *La gioia crudele di chi ha trionfato sui nemici immaginari*

Altre Gioie Patologiche

- L'acriticità dell'euforia o della mania organica
- La gioia infantile della regressione "ludica"
- La gioia del sollievo dalle allucinazioni e dall'angoscia
- Il riso e il pianto spastico

La gioia dell'ascolto !

- Il vecchio che passa tre quarti d'ora a piangere (“di gioia”) perché nessuno lo aveva ascoltato prima.
- La scoperta di un ascolto autentico , anche se professionale , può ri-suscitare nel demente anche avanzato un momento di intensa emozione partecipata :
- **Il danno cognitivo non sempre occlude completamente il canale di comunicazione empatica**

La Musica è una gioia sonora

- Il carattere a-verbale della Musica ne fa uno strumento di comunicazione non mediato
- «Dove finiscono le Parole inizia la Musica»
- (H-Heine)

La gioia nel sentire la gioia dell' altro

- *La gioia dell'operatore , o comunque la sua serenità e soddisfazione per un lavoro fatto bene , può essere letteralmente trasmessa anche a un malato con demenza medio - grave :*
- *E' spesso una sorpresa , perché con quasi altrettanta possibilità possono invece sorgere da parte dell' paziente risposte totalmente dissintone .*



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Scientific Contribution

In search of ‘the good life’ for demented elderly

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Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy 6: 35-44, 2003

Contribution In search of 'the good life' for demented elderly

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- **We first need to know more about what would count as 'a good life' for people in general and for demented people in particular...**
- **What is to count as a good life is left to everyone's own discretion, and decisions concerning one's own good are protected by one's personal autonomy. For demented nursing home residents, however, such an appeal to personal conceptions of the good runs into problems.**

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Contribution In search of 'the good life' for demented elderly

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- The class of mental state theories actually contains only one theory: hedonism. ***Hedonism holds that pleasure is the only thing that is intrinsically prudentially good - that pleasure is the only thing that is prudentially valuable in its own right and for its own sake (Silverstein, 2000). While in the classical version of hedonism (connected with the names of Bentham and Mill) the good was taken to be pleasure and the absence of pain, some contemporary proposals have replaced these with the notions of enjoyment, happiness or satisfaction, and the absence of suffering***

Preference theory, hedonism and perfectionism on the good life for demented elderly

- *I will take the corrected preference theory as my starting point, because it is widely accepted and, I believe, has some advantages over the other two. Preference theory leaves more room for people's own conceptions of their good than does perfectionism and, different from hedonism, it allows for more than just 'subjective experiences' as constitutive for well-being.*
- (Schermer M. 2003)

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- ***Some people consider life with dementia to be worse than death and they write advance directives to make sure they will not receive any life-prolonging treatment in the event that they become demented. When they indeed do become demented, however, they may appear tranquil and happy, and it may seem absurd to say that their lives are terrible or that it is better for them not to receive life-prolonging treatment anymore.***

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- The relevance of this issue for the present question about the good life for demented patients lies in the fact that demented patients can be provided with illusory pleasant experiences. They can be made to believe they are speaking with a loved one on the phone, for example, as is done with a technique called Simulated Presence, and this may induce pleasant feelings (Camberg et al., 1999)

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- Rather than to proceed from a theoretical approach, and try to specify some list of components of well-being, it may therefore be **useful to start from the other end: to investigate and assess concrete lives of demented persons and see what makes such lives better or worse.**

Relative preservation of the recognition of positive facial expression "happiness" in Alzheimer disease

Maki Y, Yoshida H, Yamaguchi T, Yamaguchi

- Sensitivity of six basic facial expressions (happiness, sadness, surprise, anger, disgust, and fear) was evaluated in 12 outpatients with mild AD, 17 aged normal controls (ANC), and 25 young normal controls (YNC).... **Within the AD patient group, sensitivity of happiness was significantly higher than those of the other five expressions. In AD patient, recognition of happiness was relatively preserved;** recognition of happiness was most sensitive and was preserved against the influences of age and disease. (2013, Jan Internat. Psychogeriatrics)

Feelings Without Memory in Alzheimer Disease

Guzman-Velez, Edmarie MA*,+; Feinstein, Justin S.
PhD+,++,Tranel,DanielPhD*

- **conclusions:** These findings indicate that **patients with AD can experience prolonged states of emotion that persist well beyond the patients' memory for the events that originally caused the emotion.** The preserved emotional life evident in patients with AD has important implications for their management and care, and highlights the need for caretakers to foster positive emotional experiences.

Giacomo Casanova

- All'età di settantadue anni, nel 1797, quando posso dire "vixi" benché viva ancora, mi sarebbe difficile trovarmi uno svago più piacevole... Nel rammentare i piaceri da me provati, li rinnovo, ne godo di nuovo, e rido delle fatiche sopportate che non sento più. Particella dell'universo, parlo all'aria... So di aver vissuto perché ho avuto delle sensazioni e delle gioie.