

June 7, 2011. RightTimePlaceCare Project meeting with collaborating institutions:

How do persons with dementia see, hear, smell and taste?

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Dementia is one of the main challenges for the 21st century's Health Care Systems. According to official information, approximately 1.4 million people suffer from dementia in Germany. Dementia is not just one single illness but a syndrome comprising up to 104 illnesses, all of which have one thing in common: the necessity of understanding the illness from a carer's point of view.

Seen from the carer's point of view, dementia is "a creeping memory loss", a slow and at the beginning hardly noticeable process of continually increasing cell deterioration, resulting in typical disorders and impairments in every day life as well as a change of personality in persons who suffer it.

During an information session on the subject "How does dementia change perception?" the practitioners present were given a first insight into the typical changes in seeing, hearing, tasting, touching, thinking, etc. and then, using simulation exercises, we worked out the geriatric psychiatric A's. These A's stand for the specific care problems which appear for all forms of dementia and which need professional care.

During the session a film was shown which was based on interviews with affected persons and which illustrated the experiences made by people with dementia.

The film:

Experiencing Dementia – I'm going out of my mind

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