

Program

for Dementia
with Psychiatric
Comorbidity (PDPC)

Moe Levin Centre

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Geriatric Psychiatry Program
6875 LaSalle Blvd.
Montreal, Quebec H4H 1R3
514-761-6131, ext. 2165
www.douglas.qc.ca



Mission

The Program for Dementia with Psychiatric Comorbidity (PDPC) provides highly-specialized clinical care, teaching, and research to a clientele with mild to severe cognitive loss, combined with psychiatric and behavioural problems. It offers a continuum of services — from a memory clinic to a day centre to an inpatient unit.

Philosophy

The philosophy of the program is to treat each person with respect and dignity, to promote independence, and to improve the individual's quality of life. This is achieved by providing an environment adapted to the needs of people who have dementia and who require day or inpatient services. We work in collaboration with the families of our clients.

The Moe Levin Memory Clinic

The memory clinic offers external evaluation services related to memory impairment. The specialized interdisciplinary clinic team can:

- identify cognitive losses and evaluate the stages in memory impairment;
- inform clients and their families of the changes related to the illness;
- propose treatment plans;
- provide the appropriate follow-up.

Evaluation Process

The referred person is evaluated at the memory clinic, with additional home evaluation, where necessary. For medical, psychiatric, psychosocial, neuropsychological, radiological and neuropsychiatric assessments, the referred person needs to be accompanied by a caregiver or someone who knows the person well.

After an integrated diagnosis and a care plan have been formulated, recommendations are provided to the client, his/her family, and the referring source. Community outreach is provided, as needed.

Clientele

Persons of all ages who present with various levels of cognitive deficits, with or without behavioural and psychiatric problems, can be referred for clarification of diagnosis and for intervention plans. Referrals are received from the community network, i.e. physicians, CLSCs, etc.

For information, and/or to make an appointment, please contact the Moe Levin Memory Clinic, at 514-761-6131, ext. 2502.

The Moe Levin Day Centre

The day centre helps people with mild to moderate cognitive deficits to maximize their functional capacity. It also offers respite to families to continue providing care at their home and helps delay placement. The centre is open Monday to Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with a maximum capacity of 10 people per day. It provides:

- A therapeutic setting for people with cognitive impairments and behavioural problems;
- Therapeutic activities to maintain their functional skills;
- Education for families regarding approaches to care.

The centre also facilitates evaluative research, clinical drug trials and the development of research programs for behavioural problems associated with dementia.

Clientele

The clientele encompasses people of all ages, who have a mild to moderate cognitive deficit and psychiatric or behavioural problems. They must be followed by one of the services of the Geriatric Psychiatry Program, which are: the memory clinic, the day hospital, the family-type residences and the external clinic.

To obtain information, and/or to make an appointment, please contact the Moe Levin Day Centre at 514-761-6131, ext. 2202.

The Moe Levin Unit

The interdisciplinary team of this unit offers clinical services specifically adapted to people suffering from dementia with psychiatric comorbidity and to those closely involved in their lives. The team develops and applies new approaches and interventions in the care of people with dementia.

Families receive information and support - both individually and in groups. Consultation is also provided to community organisations in healthcare services.

This 18-bed short-term treatment unit is specifically designed to enhance diminishing cognitive abilities. Admissions are accepted from the community for treatment and stabilization of behavioural and psychiatric symptoms.

Clientele

This unit serves people, aged 65 and over, who have moderate to severe cognitive deficits, together with behavioural and psychiatric problems (and people under 65 with a dementia profile).

To obtain information, and/or to make an appointment, please contact the Moe Levin Unit at 514-761-6131, ext. 2177 or 2179.

Teaching

Because the knowledge base about the different types of dementia and care approaches is constantly evolving, the PDPC:

- Provides educational sessions to family members about the disease and the person-centered care approach;
- Contributes mental health information, intended for the public, at www.douglas.qc.ca.
- Trains students of different disciplines in specialized care approaches for this population;
- Offers training programs for healthcare professionals and clinical researchers;
- Provides consultative services to long-term care facilities, family-type residences, and the community network.

Research

Research is conducted in order to better understand and treat various types of dementia with behavioural and functional deficits.

Current areas of active research involve:

- Learning more about role of early biological markers of dementia;
- Better understanding the regulation of the sleep-wake cycle through the use of light therapy;
- Studying the effect of “Snoezelen” therapy, a multi-sensory stimulation approach, used in the treatment of disturbed behaviour;
- Participating in international multi-centre drug trials.

For information and to participate in research projects, please contact 514-761-6131, ext. 2815.