

38th International Conference on

NURSING & HEALTHCARE

October 16-18, 2017 | New York, USA

Using a projected sensory system to reduce agitation and increase engagement in patients with dementia and delirium in the acute setting

Aishlene O'Neill

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, United Kingdom

Iris was admitted to St Mary's Hospital with pneumonia. She came from a mental health hospital and had recently been diagnosed with Fronto-temporal dementia and depression. Iris found the busy environment of the general ward distressing, leading to her demonstrating challenging behaviours such as agitation, removing her intravenous lines and getting minimal sleep. This resulted in sedation being administered which significantly affected Iris' cognition and mobility. We introduced the use of a sensory unit into Iris' advanced personalised care plan, allowing us to play calming music alongside active sensory images including blowing bubbles or ocean waves. The sensory unit captured Iris' attention and kept her engaged with the music and images for long periods. We noticed a significant change in Iris' behaviour as she became more relaxed, smiling and engaged with staff. Iris' overall wellbeing improved after introducing our intervention: she was able to sit out of bed, her oral intake increased and her sleep hygiene dramatically improved. We have implemented this projection system with software designed by My Dementia Network (a company specialising in meaningful activity technology for people with dementia and/or delirium). The software can be projected on to a wall or a ceiling and includes reminiscence, relaxation, music and movies. Use of the sensory unit has been an important element in ensuring that we support all aspects of a patients wellbeing; not just their medical issues. Staff has commented on the simplicity of set up and ease of use regarding the unit and sensory software.

Aishlene.O'Neill@imperial.nhs.uk

Notes: