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## **P167: Informal activities may explain improved depressive symptoms and resilience in nursing home residents: A cross-sectional study in Dutch and Flemish nursing homes**

**Objective:** Pleasant, meaningful, recreational or other activities are often used in depression treatment in nursing home (NH) residents. Residents may also undertake such activities alongside or without a treatment (informal activities). It is not clear if such informal activities can partially explain treatment effects. Our aim was to explore associations of depressive symptoms and resilience with informal activities in residents.

**Methods:** We calculated product scores of frequency and pleasantness for activities from 18 activity clusters in NH residents (AIM, Activities to Improve Mood inventory, Knippenberg et al., in prep). The Geriatric Depression Scale, 8 items (GDS-8, Jongenelis et al., 2007) and the Brief Resilience Scale (BRsNl, Dutch translation, Leontjevas et al., 2014) were administered when interviewing residents. Professional caregivers filled out the Nijmegen Observer Rated Depression scale (NORD, Leontjevas et al., 2011). Spearman's rho's of 0.20 to 0.39 and of 0.40 to 0.60 were regarded as weak and moderate, respectively.

**Results:** 277 Dutch speaking NH residents (male, N=104, 38%), from Flanders Belgium (male, N=137, 49.5%) and the Netherlands participated in the study. We found positive weak associations between the self-reported and observer-rated depression scales (GDS-8 and NORD), and between the AIM total score and resilience (BRsNl). Negative weak associations were found for both depression scales and resilience, and for the depression scales and AIM. Individual AIM clusters showed positive weak to moderate associations between resilience and activities stimulating cognition (e.g. reading, puzzling), activities related to nature (e.g. walking in a park, activities with animals), or doing something meaningful for others (e.g. helping with daily routines or volunteering). Regarding depression, next to the three mentioned clusters, negative weak to moderate associations were also found for craft activities, social activities, and showing a positive mindset (e.g. humour, giving compliments).

**Conclusion:** The results underscore the value of activities that residents may undertake on their own alongside or without a treatment. More research is needed to understand whether informal activities alongside or without a treatment may explain intervention effects (e.g. placebo effects) on depression or resilience, and how these activities may be used to improve treatment protocols.