Wives and Daughters: Differential Risk Factors in the Nursing Home Placement of Cognitively Impaired Family Members

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To expand our knowledge on kinship of caregiver to the care-recipient on the timing of nursing home placement, this study assessed the predictors of the timing of institutionalization for dementia patients cared for by wives and daughters. Design and Methods: Guided by Caregiving Stress Process model, caregivers’ objective and subjective stressors, caregiver well-being and use of day care services were included as predictors. Cox proportional hazards models were tested using a sample of 371 community-dwelling caregivers, including 141 wives and 230 daughters and daughters-in-law. Results: The main effect of kinship was found to be significant before the interactions were introduced to the model. Adult day care use at Time 1, role captivity, role overload and social impact were observed to have significant interaction with kinship. Further analyses indicated that the wives who used adult day care placed their husbands to nursing home earlier than their counterparts. However, daughters who used adult day care postponed the nursing home placement. The impact of role overload was stronger in the wives in predicting the timing of nursing home placement. Similar pattern was observed in the interaction between social impact and kinship. Implications: The results demonstrate that the different factors influence the decision to place the relative into nursing home depending on their relationship to the relative.