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Dementia and driving retirement: making decisions

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Abstract
To identify appropriate elements to include in a decisional support resource which may enhance acceptance of potential driving retirement for drivers with dementia.

Keywords
decisions, dementia, retirement, driving, making

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**Research Aim**
To identify appropriate elements to include in a decisional support resource which may enhance acceptance of potential driving retirement for drivers with dementia.

**Background**
Driving is complex task demanding cognitive and physical skills that can be compromised by dementia (Parron, 2002). A diagnosis of dementia is significant evidence to own to recommend driving retirement because the safety and impact of dementia vary between individuals (HSE, 1999). Clinical assessments continue to be the most accurate predictor of driving capability for dementia patients and mild dementia (HSE, 2007). However, it is essential that patients are assessed to accept assessment findings about their need to retire from driving safely (Parron, 2002).

We want to find new ways to support people with dementia remaining safe while driving.

**Method & Sample**
- Qualitative study
- Convenience sample of current drivers over 55 years: 36 drivers with dementia (11) and other drivers (25)
- Nonrandomized, newspaper notices and clinic inserts

**Findings**
Views of trusted people important
The interviewees mentioned that the views of trusted people were important for drivers when making decisions about the need to retire from driving due to dementia. One example of a trusted person in a driver's decision-making is a family member. The interviewees noted that the views of family members are important in making decisions about driving.

The interviewees stated that family members are essential in making decisions about driving. The interviewees mentioned that family members are important in making decisions about driving.

Real on-road experiences are most convincing
Real on-road experiences are important in making decisions about driving. The interviewees stated that real on-road experiences are important in making decisions about driving.

Making the decision to retire from driving with a dementia
4 themes identified

**Discussion**
The findings illustrated that combining the gleaning of views of trusted people, early discussion about driving, feedback from actual road experiences, and identifying suitable alternatives can ensure that a decision-making framework is a supportive and acceptable process for people with dementia.

**Implications**
This study contributes to the existing knowledge, with potential for expanding appropriate indications for a decisional support resource for driving with dementia.

**References**

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