



Managing diabetes and dementia a challenging duo: a scoping review

Sharkey, F., & Coates, V. (in press). *Managing diabetes and dementia a challenging duo: a scoping review*. Poster session presented at Palliative Care Research Forum NI Conference, 'Living for Today, Planning for Tomorrow', Belfast, Northern Ireland.

[Link to publication record in Ulster University Research Portal](#)

Publication Status:

Accepted/In press: 12/09/2023

Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

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Managing diabetes and dementia a challenging duo: a scoping review

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Introduction

Background

Diabetes management requires engagement in regular screening to prevent or delay the onset of long-term conditions. People with dementia the management of diabetes can prove particularly challenging.

Following discussion with clinicians working in diabetes care who indicated that these conditions present dual sets of challenges a review was undertaken to scope the literature on this topic.

Aim

To describe experiences and challenges when managing diabetes along with dementia from the perspectives of those living with these conditions, their informal carers and health care professionals.

Method

The scoping review included studies published within the last ten years (2012-2022) from EBSCO Research Databases: CINAHL, Health Business, Soc Index, ERIC, Medline, Information Science & Technology Abstracts and a review of reference lists.

Two hundred papers were identified of which eleven studies met the inclusion criteria that focussed on the experiences of managing these co-morbidities.

Results

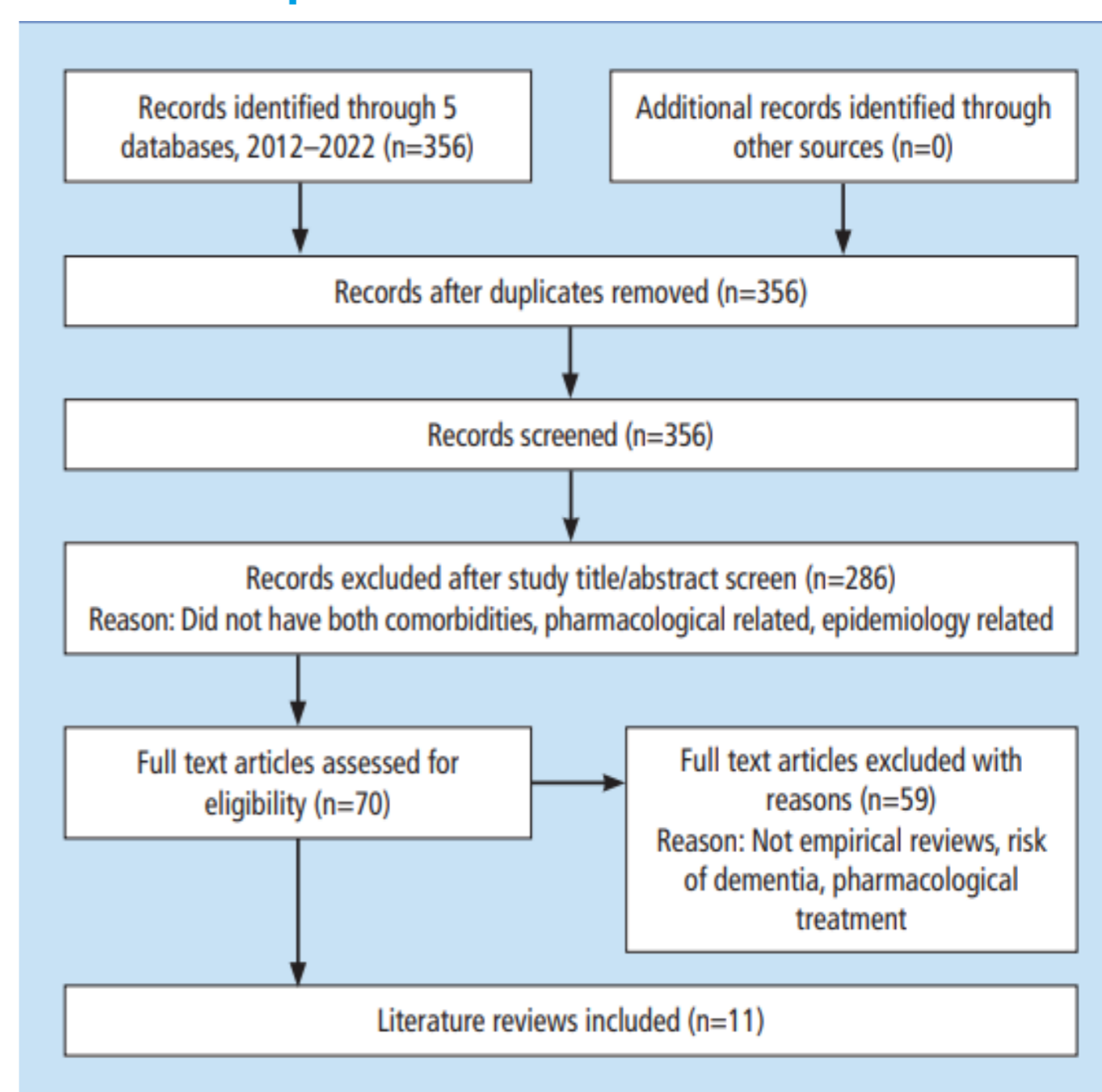
Six papers focused on the implications of those individuals diagnosed with both conditions, four on implications for their informal carers (unpaid), two included both the individuals and their informal carers.

There was one study that reported experiences of health care professionals.

Individuals faced extraordinary challenges managing both conditions to perform activities of self-care.

Informal carers reported that caring for both conditions was burdensome, sometimes overwhelming and wanted more support from family and patients' health care providers.

Figure 1. PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis) flowchart showing the study selection process.



Conclusions/Recommendations

This scoping review revealed that many individuals, their informal carers and health care professionals were struggling with the impact of these co-morbid conditions.

Challenges such as lack of information and support were evident, but few no solutions presented to improve nursing care.

To provide holistic care we need to integrate knowledge and skills from the areas of diabetes, mental health and social care.

Health care professionals and those living with these conditions should work together to find solutions.

References/Authors

Sharkey, F. & Coates, V. (2023), Managing diabetes and dementia, a challenging duo: a scoping review, *Practical Diabetes*, Vol 40, Issue 4, July/August, pp 40-48. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pdi.2469>