

Developing a Culturally Responsive Functional Assessment Framework for Dementia

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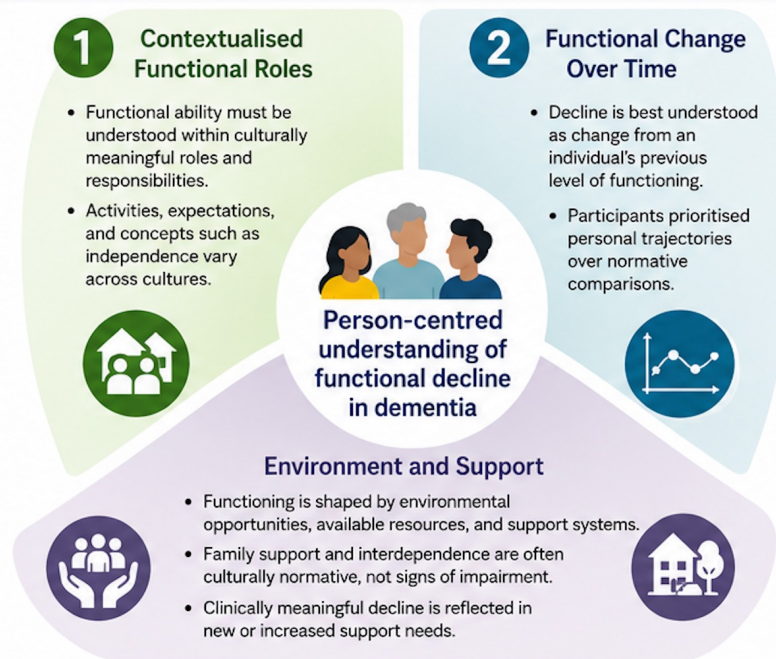
INTRODUCTION

- Functional decline is central to dementia diagnosis and monitoring.
- Most functional measures were developed in Euro-American contexts and may not reflect culturally diverse roles, values, and expectations.
- We aimed to develop a culturally responsive framework for assessing dementia-related functional decline.

METHODS

- Qualitative study within a wider programme of cross-cultural measure development.
- Semi-structured interviews and focus groups with clinicians, carers, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- Data explored perceptions of everyday functioning and functional change.
- Thematic analysis identified key principles for culturally responsive assessment.

RESULTS: THREE KEY THEMES



Dementia-related functional decline cannot be understood outside its cultural context. Assessment should focus on meaningful change relative to an individual's baseline, taking into account culturally defined roles, environments, and support systems.

KEY FINDINGS

- Functional assessment should focus on change over time within culturally meaningful roles.
- New or increased support needs provide an important indicator of clinically relevant decline.
- Functional decline should be interpreted within an individual's cultural and life context.
- Assessment frameworks must account for social and environmental influences on functioning.

NEXT STEPS

