FORMAL -INFORMAL INTERFACE IN ADVANCED OLD AGE; A TEN-YEAR FOLLOW UP

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INTRODUCTION

Does the help provided by formal services substitute the informal support?

Previous research which answered this question were mainly based on younger elderly and cross sectional data. In this study three models will be tested: the substitution model (formal services replace the support provided by informal networks), the readjustment model (increase of formal services is accompanied by a decrease of informal services) and the complementary model (introduction of formal services is not accompanied by a significant decrease in the amount of informal services).

DESIGN OF SWILSOO

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CONCLUSION

In 7% of the cases substitution occurs when formal services increase: either because of the loss of a caregiver or changes in household composition, or because of a withdrawal of the caregivers (but it seldom occurs; Garant, 1990)

In 21% of the cases an increasing of formal services leads to a decreasing frequency of informal services: we can see here a readjustment of the cares and a reduction of the burden for the caregivers.

In 72% of the cases formal and informal networks are complementary: additional needs are taken in charge by formal network in 27% of the cases and by both networks in the remaining 45%.

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