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Alcohol abuse and withdrawal in the elderly

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Alcohol abuse and dependence among elderly is prevalent but often under-recognized. There is significant complexity in management due to age-related physiologic changes in absorption, metabolism, distribution, excretion, and drug interaction. Among elderly age 65 years and older, the prevalence of reported alcohol abuse and dependence in the United States has been estimated to be approximately 500,000 people. As the elderly population grows in the United States, the problem of alcohol abuse and dependence can be expected to continue to grow. Therefore, it is essential for clinicians to recognize and manage this condition.

Biography

Siu-Hin Wan, MD, is an internal medicine resident and clinician-investigator in Cardiovascular Diseases at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, USA. He received his bachelors of science in biomedical engineering at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, USA, and his medical doctorate degree from Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

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