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Title: Suicidality in Huntington's disease

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'Suicidality in Huntington's disease'

1. In clinical care, screening of both pre-motor and motor symptomatic Huntington's disease mutation carriers for suicidality is a priority. *This thesis*
2. Assessment of suicidality in Huntington's disease can best be introduced by asking about the presence of a depressed mood. *This thesis*
3. Thus far, no biological risk factors have been identified for suicidality in Huntington's disease. *This thesis*
4. Physicians can support Huntington's disease patients who are suicidal by providing an opportunity to talk about their suicidality, providing psychoeducation on self-management, considering prescribing medication, and providing an opportunity to discuss end-of-life wishes. *This thesis*
5. Absolute suicide risks, rather than relative risks, need to be used when determining the clinical importance of suicidal ideation assessment in a particular population. *This thesis*
6. Physicians can support Huntington's disease patients with a wish for euthanasia by offering a trusting relationship, information about legal requirements, repeated conversations, and a letter of intent. *Thesis Suzanne Booij, November 2014: Chapters 3, 5, and 8.*
7. Physicians' ideas about the rationality of suicidal thoughts in older patients should not prevent these healthcare professionals from providing adequate support. *Uncapher and Arian 2000, J Am Geriatr Soc 48:188-192.*
8. Neuropsychiatric and cognitive symptoms should be added to the criteria for a clinical diagnosis of Huntington's disease. *Vinther-Jensen et al. 2014, Orphanet J Rare dis 9:114.*
9. Results from both quantitative and qualitative studies can contribute to evidence-based medicine. *Audrey 2011, Palliat Med 25:758-65.*
10. A clinical rotation in geriatrics should be compulsory for every medical student. *van Bodegom et al. 2011, report: 'Inventarisatie ouderengeneeskunde in medische curricula.'*
11. "As our circle of knowledge expands, so does the circumference of darkness surrounding it." *Albert Einstein (1879 – 1955)*
12. A thesis signifies the beginning of a scientific career, not the end of one. *van der Meer 2014, in response to NTVG 158:B1057.*