

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ICT USE IN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE
ASSESSMENT: MONACO CTAD EXPERT MEETING.**

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ICT USE IN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE ASSESSMENT: MONACO CTAD EXPERT MEETING

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Abstract: Alzheimer disease (AD) and other related dementia represent a major challenge for health care systems within the aging population. It is therefore important to develop better instruments for assessing disease severity and disease progression to optimize patient's care and support to care providers, and also provide better tools for clinical research. In this area, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are of particular interest. Such techniques enable accurate and standardized assessments of patients' performance and actions in real time and real life situations. The aim of this article is to provide basic recommendation concerning the development and the use of ICT for Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. During the ICT and Mental Health workshop (CTAD meeting held in Monaco on the 30th October 2012) an expert panel was set up to prepare the first recommendations for the use of ICT in dementia research. The expert panel included geriatrician, epidemiologist, neurologist, psychiatrist, psychologist, ICT engineers, representatives from the industry and patient association. The recommendations are divided into three sections corresponding to 1/ the clinical targets of interest for the use of ICT, 2/ the conditions, the type of sensors and the outputs (scores) that could be used and obtained, 3/ finally the last section concerns specifically the use of ICT within clinical trials.

Key words: Alzheimer, dementia, information communication technology, sensors, behavior, cognition.

List of abbreviations: AD: Alzheimer disease; ICT: Information and Communication Technologies. CoBTeK: Cognition – Behaviour – Technologies Research unit; CTAD: Clinical Trial in Alzheimer Disease congress; NPS: Neuropsychiatric symptoms; ADL: Activities of Daily Living; NIA-AA: National Institute on Aging-Alzheimer's Association workgroups; MCI: Mild Cognitive Impairment; GDB: Goal directed behavior.

Introduction

Alzheimer disease (AD) and other related dementia represent a major challenge for health care systems within the aging population. Today clinician and researchers already used in clinical practice or in clinical trials several robust standardised tools such as the Mini Mental Score Examination (MMSE) for cognitive global assessment (1), the Alzheimer Disease Assessment Scale (ADAS) to measure the severity changes of the most important cognitive symptoms (2), the Neuropsychiatric Inventory (NPI) interview for Behavioral and psychological symptoms (3) and the Clinical Dementia Rating (CDR) to quantify the severity of symptoms of Dementia (4). In AD, "dementia" is diagnosed when the disease has reached the stage where cognitive or behavioral (neuropsychiatric) symptoms interfere with social functioning or instrumental activities of daily living (5) (E). It is also recommended that the core clinical criteria, based on "functional impairment", should

be used to diagnose all causes of dementia, including AD, in all clinical settings (6) (E).

Dementia is a diagnosis merely based on clinical judgement, for which appropriate assessment instruments are of vital importance. Finding a reliable method to assess functional impairment is of high interest since disease domains other than cognition are increasingly recognized as important outcome measures in clinical practice as well as in clinical trials for anti-dementia drugs. The choice of outcome measures in these trials is often constrained by tradition and availability. Therefore, cognition-based psychometric measures are usually the preferred option. However, the clinical relevance and « meaningfulness » of such measures has been questioned as they may not adequately identify responders to therapy or address important aspects of outcome (7) (E). One of the main limitations remains that clinical assessments through questionnaires, scales or observations risk bias resulting from

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the assessor's subjectivity or the usually interviewed caregiver. Due to the time restraint, clinicians have often just limited access to diagnosis relevant information, particularly in cases of patients lacking awareness of their own condition. Neuropsychological tests are generally accused of being artificial and lacking ecological value. Furthermore, test results can show variability depending on many factors such as emotional state and may therefore not always fully reflect a patient's capacities and the complexity of the disease, which can lead to delayed diagnosis.

In this line, Information and communication technology (ICT) may be of great interest because they enable the patients' performances and actions to be captured and accurately evaluated in real time and real life situations.

Additionally, ICT is a means to cope with the increasing number of patients with chronic diseases in our aging society. As indicated by Eghdam & al (8) for individuals with chronic illness affecting cognitive capacities either directly (eg, dementia) or indirectly (eg, diabetes), ICT has become a fundamental part in their daily lives by providing a wide range of useful services and tools to use at home, work, or anywhere else (9).

Over the last few years, research has focused on the development and use of various sensors to monitor activities of the elderly as well as of AD patients. These include cameras and microphones for activity recognition (10) embedded sensors (11) or sensors placed on the body (12).

For instance, as part of the EXERCISE-ON study (13) whereas the impact of physical exercise on the progression of dementia symptoms was investigated, an actiwatch was used in order to monitor activity levels over a longer period of time objectively.

Other studies propose the use of such device for the screening of sleep/wake disorders (14), agitation (15) or depression [16]. With the help of infra-red sensors for motion detection, Banerjee et al. (17) developed an automated surveillance system that identifies correctly 89% sequences of movement in comparison with manual analysis. Within a telecare project to help elderly people in France (18), a multisensor home monitoring system has been developed to observe mobility changes that may indicate abnormal events.

European Union also recognizes the confronting issues encountered by the aging populations and has initiated Framework Programme (FP 6 and FP7) to support the research into the development of process for healthy aging, biomedical advances, as well as prevention and disease management. For example, the successful FP6 COGKNOW project (<http://www.cogknow.eu/>) was strongly user-driven with 42 people with dementia and their informal careers involved throughout the project in specifying and testing functionalities in the four most important areas of unmet needs (memory support, daily activities, social contacts and feeling safe). In the FP7 project CONFIDENCE (<http://www.confidence-eu.org/>), monitoring of elderly takes place for unusual event detection

and setting off the relevant alarms, but there is no direct focus on dementia, with life-logging and the appropriate feedback, such as cognitive exercises, not being offered to the people with dementia. The FP7 Hermes project (<http://www.fp7-hermes.eu/>) offers memory support for elderly with normal aging-related cognitive decline. Similarly, the MemoryLane project (<http://www.memorylane.nu/>) aims at capturing pictures of the life of people with mild dementia.

However these ICT devices are mostly research prototypes which have not been completely validated. Data analysis methods are tested by using simulated physiological data. The detected activities are mostly only to measure simple motion patterns. Furthermore, these devices still need to be validated against clinically accepted standards in a clinical environment. Most of the works done on home sensing previously have been tested with a small number of users in experimental environment or at the researchers' homes and their affiliates. While there has been progress on the algorithms that monitor elderly people's homes and interpret the signals of the sensors, what is acquired is often very limited.

Nonetheless, clinical expertise and scientific literature review indicates that ICT are not able today to provide a direct diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease (AD) and related disorders. However, ICT provide information for the assessment of specific domains (behaviour, cognition, activity of daily living) and those indicators contribute with other clinical and biological data to the diagnosis of AD and related disorders.

The aim of this article is to provide recommendation concerning the development and the use of ICT for Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

Method

CoBTek (for Cognition – Behaviour – Technologies) is a Research Unit at Sophia-Antipolis University (UNS) in Nice, France. CoBTek missions are, using Information and Communication Technologies, and most particularly imaging and video analytic techniques: 1/ To improve diagnostic and treatment of behavioural and cognitive symptoms in Alzheimer disease and related disorders 2/ To develop new strategies in order to prevent, help and assist elderly people 3/ To improve autonomy in the elderly.

The ICT and Mental Health workshop took place during the CTAD meeting in Monaco on the 30th October 2012. The workshop was organized by the CoBTek team and the Centre National de Référence Santé à domicile et autonomie. An expert panel was set up to prepare the first recommendations for the use of ICT in dementia research. The expert panel included geriatricians, epidemiologists, neurologists, psychiatrists, psychologists, ICT engineers, representatives from the industry and patient association. The starting presentation was held by the CoBTek team as well as the discussion, which was audio recorded. The letter (E) after an article reference number indicates if the reference is related to





Table 1
Studies using ICT in elderly subjects and patients with AD and related disorders

Technologies	Authors	Subjects	Topic
<i>Actigraphy</i>	Ivorra et al., 2008 (39)	10 volunteers	Minimally obtrusive wearable device for continuous interactive cognitive and neurological assessment
	Yesavage et al., 1998 (40)	61 AD patients	Sleep evaluation in dementia patients
	Volkers et al., 2003 (41)	67 depressed inpatients	Motor activity in major depressive disorder
	Nagels et al., 2006 (42)	110 dementia patients	Measurement of agitated behavior in dementia
	Mahlberg et al., 2007 (43)	24 AD patients	Actigraphy in agitated patients with dementia
	Müller et al., 2006 (44)	24 patients with acquired brain damage	Actigraphy to measure reduced daytime activity in patients with acquired brain damage and apathy
	Mulin et al., 2011 (45)	103 AD patients	Relationship between apathy and sleep disturbance in AD
	David et al., 2010 (46)	30 AD patients	Actigraphy correlates with apathy in mild AD
	David et al., 2011 (47)	107 AD outpatients	Decreased daytime motor activity associated with apathy in AD
	Kuhlmei et al., 2011 (48)	82 participants	Daytime activity reduced in patients with cognitive impairment and apathy
	Hatfield et al., 2004 (49)	27 dementia patients	Disrupted daily activity/rest cycles in relation to daily cortisol rhythms
	Reiterer et al., 2008 (50)	38 stroke patients	Motor activity monitoring in stroke patients
	Meadows et al., 2010 (51)	122 non-demented residents	Comparing community dwelling poor sleepers with non-demented care home residents
	Foerster,et al., 2000 (12)	31 subjects	Motion pattern and posture: correctly assessed by calibrated accelerometers
<i>Infrared-sensors</i>	Banerjee et al., 2003 (17)	4 elderly patients	Telesurveillance of elderly patients by use of passive infra-red sensors in a 'smart'home
	Suzuki et al., 2006 (52)	3 elderly subjects	Monitoring daily living activities of elderly in a nursing home
	Suzuki et al., 2010 (53)	53 elderly subjects	Influence of outdoor activity and indoor activity on cognition decline
	Suzuki et al., 2007 (54)	14 subject's houses	Early detection of dementia recording in-house activities
	Dodge et al., 2012 (55)	54 participants	In-home walking speeds and variability trajectories associated with MCI
	Nakano et al., 2002 (56)	2 dementia patients	Long-term bedside measurements of rest-activity patterns in the elderly
	Chan et al., 2005 (18)	4 participants	Assessment of activity of elderly people using home monitoring system
<i>Computerized Video Analyses</i>	Romdhane et al., 2012 (57)	3 elderly (2 AD, 1 Control)	Video Monitoring system for assessment of AD symptoms
	Sacco et al., 2012 (33)	64 participants (AD, MCI, Controls)	Detection of activities of daily living impairment
	Williams et al., 2012 (58)	1 dyad (dementia patient /caregiver)	In-Home Monitoring support for dementia caregiver
<i>Tracking technologies</i>	Robinovitch et al., 2012 (24)	130 individuals	Video capture of the circumstances of falls in elderly people
	Shoval et al., 2008 (59)	360 demented persons	Analysis of mobility in AD
	Faucounau et al., 2009 (60)	1 dyad (dementia patient/ caregiver)	Electronic tracking system and wandering in AD
	Elgethun et al., 2003 (61)	11 children	Time-location analysis for exposure assessment studies of children using GPS
	Werner et al., 2012 (62)	76 dyads(dementia patient/ caregiver)	Caregiving burden and out-of-home mobility of cognitively impaired care-recipients based on GPS
	Wahl et al., 2012 (63)	222 older adults	Interplay of cognitive and motivational resources for out-of-home behavior
	Chan et al., 2005 (18)	Not indicated	Assessment of activity of elderly people using a home monitoring system
<i>Target audience SMART Homes-Health Data Monitoring</i>	Rantz et al., 2009 (64)	1 case study	Using sensor technology to augment traditional healthcare
	Kidd et al., 1998 (65)	Older adults and their families	AWARE Home, Georgia Institute of Technology
	Helal et al., 2005 (66)	Older adults and persons with disabilities	The Gator Tech Smart House: a programmable pervasive space
	Intille et al., 2006 (67)	General population	PlaceLab (part of House_n project of MIT)
	Cerni et al., 2006 (68)	General population	Circadian rhythm monitoring in homecare system
	Chan et al., 2005 (18)	Older adults at home	PROSAFE, multisensor remote monitoring system for the elderly
	Demongeot et al., 2008 (69)	Older adults at home	Health Integrated Smart Home HIS, Information system TIMC-IMAG
	Tamura et al., 1998 (70)	Older adults and persons with disabilities	Welfare Techno-Houses (WHT)
	Matsuoka et al., 2004 (71)	Older adults and persons with disabilities	Smart house in Osaka
	Yamazaki et al., 2006 (72)	Residents of assisted living facility	The Ubiquitous Home project
	Cash et al., 2001 (73)	Persons with early dementia	ENABLE Project
	Adlam et al., 2000 (74)	Persons with dementia	Gloucester Smart House UK
	Cook et al., 2001 (75)	General population	MavHome University of Texas at Arlington
	Woolham et al., 2002 (76)	Persons with dementia	Safe-at-home project, UK
	Rialle et al., 2002 (77)	Persons with dementia	Seven Oaks project
Marsh et al., 2002 (78)	General population with strong focus on older adults	Smart Medical Home, Center for Future Health, University of Rochester, New York	
Demiris et al., 2006 (79)	Residents of assisted living facility	Tiger Place, University of Missouri-Columbia	





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the expert presentation and discussion directly at the time of the meeting. Two drafts of the recommendations regarding the use of ICT in AD were circulated to experts in December 2012. It includes a literature review, which is summarized in Table 1. about different studies using ICT for monitoring and screening purposes in elderly subjects. For the review research articles and reviews dating from the year 1998 to 2012 were identified in PubMed using the following search terms : « dementia OR alzheimer OR mild cognitive impairment » AND « assessment OR evaluation OR sreening OR monitoring» AND « new methods OR new technologies OR ICT OR (Information and Communication Technologies) OR actigraphy OR infra-red sensors OR assistive technologies OR smart homes OR GPS ». Searches were limited to articles written in English. The experts were encouraged to revise their former comments provided during the meeting in ligh of the 2 drafts.

Recommendations

The recommendations are divided into three sections corresponding to 1/ the clinical targets of interest for the use of ICT, 2/ the conditions, the type of sensors and the outputs (scores) that could be used and obtained, 3/ finally the last section concerns specifically the use of ICT within clinical trials.

What are the Clinical targets ?

Cognition

Cognitive tests are assessments of human cognitive capacities. The administered tests include various forms. Throughout the 20th century, "paper and pencil" cognitive tests were commonly used to measure intelligence, assist with the diagnosis of brain disorders such as Alzheimer's disease, and measure recovery from brain disease or injury.

The first computerized cognitive tests were developed in the 1970s (19). Computerized testing offers accurate recording of reaction times, electronic capture and processing of data (minimizing human error) and standardization of test administration and automatic scoring (minimizing sources of response bias). Today, they can be used, according to the clinician experience, as an alternative to « paper and pencil tests » in clinical research and practice. The advantage is a better usability but they do not improve ecological validity of the assessment. In fact, for a research study, ecological validity means that methods, material and settings of the study approximate a real-world context that is being examined. Experience sampling methodology (ESM) is a potential way to achieve this goal. ESM refers to a set of empirical methods that are designed to allow respondents to document their thoughts, feelings and actions outside the walls of a laboratory and within the context of everyday life (20) (E). ICT and most particularly wearable smart phones can be of interest for the assessment of cognition. This has been already done for working memory evaluations (21) (E) and could be applied as well to episodic

memory tasks. For instance, as part of the cohort study AMI (Agrica-MSA-ISPED) (22) (E) of 1002 retired farmers, an ancillary project has been developed in which 60 subjects received an MRI with the use of the mobile phone PALM. This phone allowed to collect four times a day during a week (Computerized Ambulatory Monitoring) information regarding the activities of daily living of the subjects as well as their performances in neuropsychological tests of semantic memory and episodic memory. The obtained results of these tests are better associated with the brain imaging data (size of the hippocampus in particular) as with the test results conducted by neuropsychologists.

Following these examples the expert panel underlined the interest to develop simple devices with easy and understandable scores, with as added value, in comparison to the present tools, ecological validity, reliability and limitation of the interjudge variability.

Behaviors

Behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD) are frequently associated with cognitive deficits during the progression of Alzheimer disease (AD) and other dementia. BPSD assessment is usually based on a structured interview, using subjective input from either the caregiver and/or the patient. For instance apathy, which is the most frequent BPSD, (23) (E) is usually assessed in clinical practice and research with the Neuropsychiatric Inventory (NPI) apathy domain. It has also been proposed that ICT such as actigraphy could provide an objective assessment.

This demonstrates that ICT use could be a source of additional information for the assessment of BPSD.

Other ICT tools can also be used for the assessment and the understanding of motor disturbances. Recently, Robinovitch (24) (E) demonstrated that Digital video cameras installed in common living areas (dining rooms, lounges, hallways) may provide insight into the sequences of events that most commonly lead to falls and, further to more valid and effective approaches for balance assessment and fall prevention in long-term care.

Activities of daily living

Behavior is not only BPSD but also the ability of a subject to be involved in activities of daily living (25) (E). One of the key clinical features of Alzheimer's disease (AD) is impairment in daily living functioning (26) (E).

The inability to perform Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (ADL) (27) (E) is present from the early stages of cognitive decline (28) (E). As indicated in the recommendations from the NIA-AA (29) (E) persons with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) commonly have slight problems performing complex tasks (30) (E). Methods to assess IADL comprise self-reported questionnaires, performance-based assessment and informant-based questionnaires. These measurements have some limitations because they do not offer





accurate, reproducible, objective and ecological perspectives. Moreover, these assessment batteries and standardized tools rely on quantitative scales, which are often lacking sensitivity. For this reason, information and communication technology (ICT), in particular, techniques involving imaging and video processing are of interest, and may overcome these limitations by reducing the inter/intra rater variability due to human interpretation bias.

Goal directed behavior (GDB) is another definition presented during the discussion. GDB is a construct used to operationalize a broad spectrum of purposeful actions and their determinants from the simplest single movement to the most complex patterns behaviors. GDB is a set of related processes (including cognition, emotion, motivation) by which an internal state is translated through action into the attainment of a goal (31) (E). It is important to differentiate the semi directed (prespecified) activities from self initiated GDB activities.

The first one can be directly assessed by proposing a patient to carry out a series of prespecified tasks (32) (E) and using this strategy it is possible to assess activities in real life time using ICT (Box 1) (33) (E).

Box 1

Example of a scenario aiming to test activities of daily living

SCENARIO INITIAL REQUIREMENT

- Relevant for patient and caregiver
- Close to real life
- Using motor functions
- Using cognitive processing
- Not too long scenario

“Your task is to perform this list of 10 activities in a logical manner within 15 min. These 15 minutes represent a typical morning period of everyday life”

- Read the newspaper
- Water the plant
- Answer the phone
- Call the taxi
- Prepare the medication for today
- Make the check for the Electricity Company
- Leave the room when you are finished with all activities
- Watch the TV
- Prepare a hot tea
- Write the shopping list for the lunch

(1) watch the TV before the phone call

(2) water the flower just before leaving the room

(3) call the taxi, which will arrived in 10 minutes and ask the driver to drive you to the market

The second one can also be tested by giving the patient a complex order (follow a recipe) and assess how he/she deals with the general recommendation in order to test initiation as well as execution. This type of assessment is very difficult to organize and time consuming.

ICT sensors review and description

Table 1 summarizes studies done in elderly subjects with AD and related disorders. The general recommendations concerning the use of ICT are listed in table 2. The different types of sensors need to be simple and easy to use to avoid a population

selection based on their ability to understand device utilization. Various potential sensors exist, and therefore, the choice should be done accordingly to study conditions (in a clinical consultation setting, in Nursing home, at home) and to population groups (patients, family caregiver, professional carer). Technical progress may allow the implementation of one device with multiple sensors (eg actigraphy, body temperature, audio recording). The choice of devices depends on available budget and agreements between clinicians, ICT engineers and end users. In addition the quality of sensor processing often depends on a correct installation / calibration and some sensors have practical issues such as battery life for wearable sensors or data storage/transmission.

Following these examples the expert panel underlines:

- For the assessment of BPSD objective data covering day and night behavior are needed
- BPSD real time assessment must be validated in comparison to the NPI domains.
- ICT devices enable the patients' performances and actions to be captured in real time and real life situations and to be accurately evaluated. This is particularly important for activities of daily living and the semi directed activities
- The potential interest of serious games for assessing self initiated goal directed behaviour should be explored

Table 2

Sensors characteristics according to recommendations and types

Characteristics

- Sensitive to change in the type and intensity of patient activity
- Sensor easy to install / wear
- Immediate output for the clinician
- Self explanatory (easy explanation) for the user
- Understandable feed back information for the clinician
- Easy maintenance of the equipment

Sensors types

- Accelerometry/Actigraphy
- Video 2&3D – ambient
- Video 2&3D – wearable
- Speech tracking
- Multi modal sensors
- Infra-red sensors
- Tracking technologies (Global Positioning System)
- Smart Phone and Tablet
- Serious game

Concerning the audio and video recording devices, it is particularly important to employ automatic recording and analysis of the data. This is crucial when long term monitoring is required, such as for the assessment of behavioural disturbances. In order to develop this type of automatic recording, clinicians must describe in full details to the ICT engineers the characteristics of the behavioural sequences that need to be captured.

Use of ICT devices in everyday life raises several issues that





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must be discussed in each specific situation. However, ICT tools utilization may also have some positive effects, at least for a short-term period, for example by involving more actively the patient or empower the couple patient/ caregiver in the assessment procedure.

The use of video recording devices (wearable or static) is particularly often discussed: "Is there any change in the way of life of the people when there is a camera in the room?" This is mostly depending on the person. However, long term use of such devices seems to indicate a good acceptance. Usually, the person only notices the presence of the video sensor at the beginning of the experimentation but this awareness disappears rapidly (34) (E). A very important factor to increase acceptance is the understanding of the reason for installing the sensor.

Furthermore, it is important to provide the subject with systematic feedback about the data that are collected.

In this respect, the experience sampling method using the psymate may be relevant (35). The "Psymate" is a small electronic device that momentary assesses daily changes in functioning, emotions, which may contribute to identifying environmental risk factors and symptom patterns, as well as provide sensitive evaluations for treatment. This "PsyMate," was specifically developed to implement momentary assessment in clinical practice. It has been applied in psychotic patients, in whom it was shown that self-monitoring of both positive and negative psychotic symptoms is feasible, provides a much more detailed and fine-grained picture of symptoms, and reveals patterns of behavior that may be relevant for treatment. Furthermore, the PsyMate could be instrumental for real-time and real-world delivery of psychological interventions (36). A trial using the Psymate for patients with dementia, and their caregivers is ongoing.

As these technologies rely on the acquisition of a large number of data collected in the context of the daily life of individuals, there is a need to consider first the respect of privacy and the protection of individual data. It is important to conduct this ethical reflection on a case-by-case basis for each project, as these innovative technologies may elicit specific ethical questions.

Concerning the output coming from the devices used for assessments, the following points have been underlined:

- In everyday clinical practice the output (the clinical score) needs to be simple as possible and easily understandable. The score needs to be obtained automatically or at least be understandable to users without high technical competences (patient, caregiver, clinician, researcher).
- Correlation should be established between ICT scores and classical tools scores.
- ICT characteristics allow combining different scores coming from one single domain (cognition) or from different domains (e.g. cognition, motricity, emotion, nutrition). However, this type of combination needs to be defined and described in a preliminary step between the clinician and the engineers after taking into account the end user point of view (37) (E).

ICT in outcome measures for clinical trials for Alzheimer's disease

Most of the information indicated in the previous sections can be applied as well to the particular case of clinical research.

It is possible to separate expert suggestions into two parts: the wishes and the requirements.

Wishes

- In clinical studies, including therapeutic pharmacological and non pharmacological trials, and most particularly cohort follow up studies, one of the major cause for drop outs is that patient are reluctant to return to the center. With the use of ICT, it may be possible to assess cognition, behaviour and/or activities of daily living directly in the patient's home environment and by therefore decrease the number of visit in the center.
- ICT use may be able to help to keep blinding about the evolution of the patient
- ICT may help to have a more objective and homogeneous assessment of behavioural disturbances and by reducing variability.
- The use of serious games can be of interest to train the investigator and/or staff members on how to rate or manage certain behavioural problems
- The association of ICT and biological data may help to foster new ideas and solve common medical problems (falls, sleep disorders). For example the ICT device can provide researchers with some information on sleep parameters (e.g. apnea, Co2 Level). Having a biological component being part of the discussion process could only aid to the hypothesis generation as well as to the hypothesis testing.

Requirements

Before using ICT devices in clinical trials, several steps need to be achieved:

- ICT needs to be accepted by as a valid study endpoint by Health Authorities. In fact, it seems hard to shift from a well establish end point into a surrogate marker. Unless we get this new endpoint to be approved, technologies are interesting but only as investigational technologies for clinical trial. This explains the importance of introducing ICT into clinical practice in a first step before getting it accepted as a validated clinical endpoint by drug regulators.
- It is important to understand the correlation between ICT data and results obtained by classical assessment tools.
- For BPSD, long-term data need to be collected (24h during one month). It is particularly important to assess whether the frequency of the behavior described by the caregiver (using the NPI) is the same as the one recorded by the ICT device.

Conclusion

To summarize, special attention should be given to ICT solutions that provide personalized information and more objective assessment that indirectly help people with AD and





their caregivers to better understand BPSD and provide help with their daily living activities (38).

One of the obvious results of this ICT and Mental Health workshop is to allow the interaction between ICT engineers and health professionals. For clinicians it is important to establish the exact type of indicators that are clinically relevant and that can provide useful information in daily practice. Secondly, for ICT engineers, the challenge is to adapt the constraints of the technology to the needs of the clinician.

The adopted approach tries to emphasize the clinician's user needs. In the next step, more attention should be paid to the user needs from patient / caregiver and to tool designs considering end user perspectives. It is of great importance that patients and caregivers be engaged in the assessment process and be able to give feedback on the feasibility and tolerability of the ICT sensors.

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