
Online Fachtagung

«Chronisch krank in der digitalen Welt»

ABSTRACT – Raum 15

Technology-driven dyadic interaction enhancement for community-dwelling people with dementia and their family members

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Background

Due to the ongoing pandemic and the resulting community lockdowns, people with dementia and their family might be at risk of social deprivation and increased relationship strains. Technological means have the potential to engage participants in meaningful positive interactions. The tablet-based activation system I-CARE offers social activities specifically designed for people with dementia and their caregivers, by offering user-specific contents adapted to their needs and sensitivities. Little is known about the impact of Covid-19 on social health for this population. The planned study will take place in winter 2020/2021, aiming to evaluate aspects and to prepare for a later evaluation on effectiveness of I-CARE in terms of social health.

Methods

As a part a planned feasibility study baseline assessments through semi-structured interviews will be conducted to investigate if the usage of technological solutions has been influenced by the ongoing pandemic, as well as to explore participants' underlying motivation for introducing I-CARE as a third party in their interactions.

Results

The baseline data is expected to provide insight into quality of life, social interactions and caregiver burden in dementia caregiving during this pandemic. Furthermore, the current usage and attitudes towards technologies like I-CARE and technology usage in general can be explored. These findings will have important implications for future research on the role of technology for social health in a dementia caregiving context.

Conclusion

The findings can have significant implications for future implementations of technologies to support dyadic relationships in dementia caregiving, as they facilitate communication and enhance dyadic relationships.