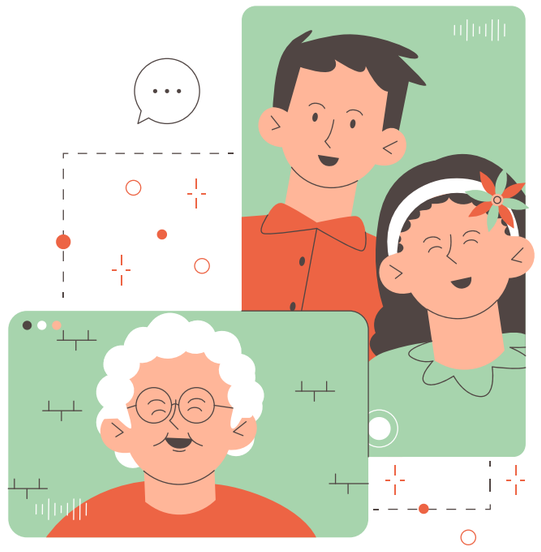
How can technology alleviate loneliness?

Delphi process to identify the barriers and facilitators of implementing assistive technologies in nursing homes to impact loneliness in people living with dementia



Introduction

Loneliness & dementia

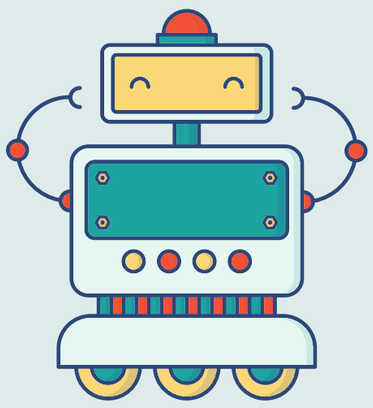
A body of research suggests that assistive technology has the potential to impact loneliness in people living with dementia (1). Our scoping review (1) identified studies hardly focused on technology and loneliness but that various technologies have the potential to alleviate loneliness. Current research lacks expert consensus on implementing assistive technology to address loneliness.

Objectives

To gather the expert consensus on the facilitators and barriers of implementing assistive technology to address loneliness in long-term care settings across Europe by investigating the beliefs and attitudes towards assistive technology in respective regions.

Methods

Three-round Delphi process will be conducted online. Alzheimer Europe member associations (national and regional) across Europe will be invited to participate. An ethics application for this study has been submitted. Online Delphi process is expected to start in July 2021 and will be completed in September/October 2021.



Results

Results are expected to lead to a better understanding of acceptance and adoption of assistive technology in nursing homes to help alleviate loneliness for people living with dementia.

Discussion

Understanding the beliefs and attitudes towards assistive technology in respective regions of Europe will enable stakeholders (nursing homes, practitioners, researchers, and nurses) to have a better understanding of elements contributing towards successful implementation of those assistive technologies.

References:

1. Budak, K. B., Atefi, G., Hoel, V., Laporte Uribe, F., Meiland, F. J., Teupen, S., Felding, S. A., & Roes, M. (under review). Can technology impact loneliness in dementia? A scoping review on the role of assistive technologies in long-term care. Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology.

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DZNE Deutsches Zentrum für Neurodegenerative Erkrankungen in der Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft

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