





Digital Biomarkers in ADCS PEACE-AD RCT: Prazocin for Agitation in AD RCT: BMDs in Agitation (Peskind & Raskin, PIs; NIA-ADCS RCT)



Digital Agitation Assessment -

Wrist-worn devices with long battery life, $\rm H_2O$ -proof. Activity levels monitored continuously during entire 12-week titration study using wrist actigraphy. Continuous monitoring critical as study employs a flexible dose titration schedule, and the use of rescue medication (lorazepam) for agitation..

Outcome measures -

Motor activity (total activity over a 24 hour period and the 12 hour period from 6 PM to 6 AM for each wk for the 12 wk study. Percent change in total activity counts at wk 1 (pre-TX) compared to wk 12 (post-TX).

Exploratory analyses -

Activity in those receiving lorazepam and in those discontinuing prazosin; Sleep disruption/continuity; and sensed environment mediators.

Evidence...

Topo P. Technology studies to meet the needs of people with dementia and their caregivers: a literature review. Journal of Applied Gerontology. 2009 Feb;28(1):5-37.

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Lui L, Strouliab E, Nikolaidisc I, Miguel-Cruza, d A, Rincona AR. Smart homes and home health monitoring technologies for older adults: A systematic review. International Journal of Medical Informatics. 2016;91:44-59

Meiland F, Innes A, Mountain G, Robinson L, van der Roest H, García-Casal JA, et al. Technologies to Support Community-Dwelling Persons With Dementia: A Position Paper on Issues Regarding Development, Usability, Effectiveness and Cost-Effectiveness, Deployment, and Ethics. JMIR Rehabil Assist Technol 2017;4(1):e1

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Van der Roest HG, Wenborn J, Pastink C, Dröes RM, Orrell M. Assistive technology for memory support in dementia. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2017, Issue 6. Art. No.: CD009627.DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD009627.pub2.

Summary of Evidence - Gaps

- The technologies used are wide-ranging (passive sensors, wearables, apps, integrated multi-domain systems...), and have been used in many types of assessments and interventions;
- Overall there are few studies relative to other research areas this
 is a small field;
- Within a specific technology there is variability in the devices or technologies used (hardware/software), and poor specification of the systems deployed and the analytic algorithms applied;
- There is little research on the usability of these technologies;
- Various benefits may be reported but are mainly based on lowquality studies (small sample size, short study periods, biased designs, non-diverse populations);
- Barriers to deployment of technologies in dementia care are prevalent (ease of use, research expertise, costs).

Recommendations

- 1. Feasibility research is still important to be most effective:
 - a. Involve persons with dementia and their caregivers in the earliest stages of all research
 - b. Include iterative development designs as the norm
- Technology research needs to include more diverse populations: ethnic/cultural, technical savvy and naïve, encompass the heterogeneity of dementia
- Different outcome measures are used in efficacy and effectiveness studies: Develop consensus on the use of device/sensor ontologies, data specifications and outcome measures
- Research into the effectiveness of technologies must move beyond explorative studies - Conduct more and adequately powered RCTs, as well as innovative designs (adaptive, n-of-1).
- 5. Embed technologies in 'conventional' studies whenever possible

Thank you!





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