



Persons with moderate Alzheimer's disease use simple technology aids to manage daily activities and leisure occupation



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ABSTRACT

Two studies assessed technology-aided programs to support performance of daily activities and selection/activation of music items with patients with moderate Alzheimer's disease. In Study I, four patients were presented with activity-related pictorial instructions via a computer fitted with inexpensive, commercial software. In Study II, four patients were (a) presented with different music options and (b) allowed to select and activate the preferred option via a microswitch response. Study I showed that each patient learned to perform the two activities available with percentages of correct responses exceeding 85 by the end of the intervention. Study II showed that all patients learned to choose and activate music options. Psychology students, employed in a social validation check, scored the patients' behavior within the program better than their behavior in a control situation. The relevance and usability of simplified pictorial-instruction programs and music choice programs for patients with moderate Alzheimer's disease were discussed.

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1. Introduction

Persons affected by Alzheimer's disease experience a progressive decline of their condition with a gradual loss of their independence in daily functioning (Ambrose, 2012; Bernick, Cummings, Raman, Sun, & Aisen, 2012; Melrose et al., 2011; Perry, Monaco, Fadda, Caltagirone, & Carlesimo, 2014; Sikkes et al., 2013; Soto et al., 2012; Spalletta et al., 2012; Wilson et al., 2012). Indeed, they grow progressively less competent in important areas involving, among others, (1) managing medication and finances (Campbell et al., 2012; Cotrell, Wild, & Bader, 2006; Marson et al., 2000), (2) using typical communication

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