

T. FUJINAMI, T. SUGIHARA. **Person-centered dementia care revised from the standpoint of assistive technology.** *Gerontechnology* 2012;11(2):246; doi:10.4017/gt.2012.11.02.645.00 **Purpose** The role of ICT in dementia care has not been clarified, especially from the standpoint of person-centred care although ICT is useful for assisting people with dementia and their caregivers. The paper discusses how ICT contributes to person-centered care. **Method** Assistive technologies were classified into five categories through literature review of approximately 200 journal articles and conference proceedings. The five categories were then examined in reference to user needs as identified by person-centered care^{1,2}. **Results & Discussion** User needs are (a) attachment, (b) comfort, (c) identity, (d) occupation, and (e) inclusion. Five categories are (i) communication support and therapy, (ii) memory aid, (iii) monitoring health and safety, (iv) information sharing and tele-care, and (v) screening. Each category is related to a user needs as follows: i to a+b, ii+iii to c+d, and iv to e. Screening is not related to person-centered care. In view of person-centred care, (i) communication support and therapy may contribute to facilitating the social involvement of people with dementia. The technologies are, however, in an early stage of development and require time before they can be applied to the real world. (ii) Memory-aid, (iii) monitoring health or safety, and (iv) information sharing and tele-care are assistive to people with dementia, but can better assist them if data obtained from these technologies are stored and analyzed to infer behavioural patterns. The knowledge of behavioural patterns enables caregivers to allow people with dementia to behave as they like as long as no immediate risk is anticipated. Caregivers can minimize the number of occasions to interfere with their behaviours if they can predict the consequences of the behaviour.

References

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