

M. SOARES BERNARDES, M. RIBEIRO MARQUES, T. MARQUINE RAYMUNDO, C. SILVA SANTANA. **Brazilian devices for daily activities developed for elderly.** *Gerontechnology* 2012;11(2):308; doi:10.4017/gt.2012.11.02.601.00

**Purpose** Assistive technology offers the potential to reinforce the independence and well-being of the elderly, improving their abilities to communicate, access information, and organize daily tasks<sup>1</sup>. Its goal is to offset the missing or deficient capacities. By using these technologies, people can execute a variety of daily living activities, participate in life's options, and make choices based on their personal goals and desired roles<sup>2</sup>. The purpose of this study is to survey assistive technology developed for the elderly to assist them with their performance of daily activities, and to describe and classify them according to their impact on elderly functionality. **Method** This is a descriptive, exploratory study about products and technologies available to perform activities of daily living (ADLs) and instrumental activities of daily living (IADL) that have been developed for the elderly and that are available in Brazil. The products found in catalogs provided by companies were classified according to the Code of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)<sup>1</sup> e115 - Products and Technologies for personal use in daily life. Classificatory tables were developed for the products with the following categories: products (subcategories: name, picture of the product, description, price, manufacturer) and purpose (subcategory: purpose / objective of indication). **Results & Discussion** A total of 159 products were classified; 40 belonging to IADL and 119 to ADL. Some products fell into more than one classification category and some were not developed to meet a specific classification but were facilitators of a function (such as written facilitators for the task of money management). Among products for ADLs, 14 were clothing related (tamperers, elastic laces), 37 concerned nourishment (non-slip trays, adaptable levitators for head and arm, pipes, weight bracelets, cups with handles, table adapted to plate edges, thickeners and adaptation to hold utensils), 67 focused on hygiene (comb adapted to head, bath, shaver, bank, razor, adapted tooth brush, bath glove, hair brushes, nail clippers, bath sponges lifts, toilets, sinks and hygienic urine chairs), and only one for drug administration. Among the 40 products for IADL support 20 were meant for the preparation of meals (peeler device to open and manipulate household taps, knobs, pots openers, knives, cutting boards and scissors), and 20 concerned money management (levitator arm, wheelbarrows, bracelets, weight tables and thickeners). The catalogs used in this study did not have products that could be classified into categories such as clothes care, cleaning, maintenance of the home, care for others; this indicates there is a need for investment in this field. In general, few technologies for ADL and IADL are produced; there were many ADL- tasks that were not included in other categories demonstrating the need for greater investment in research innovation and production for this particular market. It is necessary to create greater clarity of the market for specific products for the elderly; in Brazil few products for this segment of the population were found. Therefore, a large demand was identified and this represents a field where professionals in the assistive technology area could invest and expand their work.

#### References

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