

A. CORREIA MARTINS, J. PÁSCOA PINHEIRO, B.J. FARIAS, J.W. JUTAI. **Psychosocial impact of assistive technologies for mobility and its implications for Active Ageing.** *Gerontechnology* 2016;15(suppl):105s; doi:10.4017/gt.2016.15.s.732.00 **Purpose** Active aging is defined as the process of optimizing opportunities for physical, social and mental health to enable older people to take an active part in society without discrimination and to enjoy an independent and good quality of life¹. The World Health Organization² assumed this as the process designed toward increasing and maintaining an individual's participation in activities to enhance his/her quality of life. In this survey, the authors addressed the following question: "Is assistive technology (AT) for mobility contributing to enhance lifelong capacity and performance?". **Method** From June 2015 until February 2016, 96 AT users of mobility devices (powered wheelchairs, manual wheelchairs, lower limb prostheses, walkers, crutches and canes), aged 45-97, mean 67.02±14.24 years, 56.3% female, were interviewed through the Psychosocial Impact of Assistive Devices Scale (PIADS)³, the Activities and Participation Profile related to Mobility (APPM)⁴ and demographics, clinical and AT questions. **Results & Discussion** The participants profiles revealed moderate limitation and restrictions in participation (2.03). Most participants showed positive impact of AT; average scores obtained from the subscales were: Self-esteem 0.62, Competency 1.11 and Adaptability 1.10. PIADS total was 0.96, with the powered wheelchair users scoring the highest (1.53) and the walker users scoring the lowest (0.73). All subscales and PIADS total were positively correlated with the activities and participation profile. There was no relation between age and the psychosocial impact of AT or activities and participation profile. These results encourage the authors to follow these participants up for a life-long intervention. Currently, the protocol is implemented at the AT prescribing centers in Coimbra in order to assess the impact of AT on participation in society, one of the domains of the Active Ageing Index⁵, a new analytical tool to help policy makers in developing policies for active and healthy ageing.

References

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