

R. BRANKAERT, E. TROENOKARSO, H. VAN WETTEN, Y. LU. **The Discover Dementia Pillow for reminiscence through music.** *Gerontechnology* 2016;15(suppl:120s.; doi:10.4017/gt.2016.15.s.792.00 **Purpose** With the aging society the number of people with dementia increases steeply. This puts pressure on formal and informal caregivers of people with dementia¹. In this paper we focus on relieving this burden in caring for people with later stage dementia. For them we pursued to design a meaningful activity with a positive experience. By this we can also tackle incidents of behavioural and psychological disturbances in dementia (BPSD)². Over several iterations we developed the 'Discover Dementia Pillow'. This pillow allows people with dementia to explore personal sound and music fragments together with their caregivers. Based on reminiscence theory we aim for this recognizable music and sound to evoke a positive response from individuals with dementia³. As such the pillow supports a person-centred care approach in care homes⁴. **Method** A user-driven design process was conducted involving people with dementia in each of the process stages⁵. Over the course of this process we managed to design and prototype a suitable experience solution for people with dementia. This prototype was evaluated in an explorative way with four target users and a professional caregiver in a care home environment. **Results & Discussion** The preliminary results were positive. We found that both the mood of the person with dementia as well as the professional caregiver improved after interacting with the 'Discover Dementia Pillow'. People with dementia who didn't respond in conversation started to smile and sing along with the music. Overall, the pillow evoked positive emotions and vivid responses. These results are promising for follow-up research and the role of such experience-driven interventions. Additionally, the integration of such experience-driven interventions in daily care practise has to be investigated further as well.

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Figure 1. One of the Discover Dementia Pillow prototypes used in context, by a person with dementia and her caregiver