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Purpose As a large proportion of our population continues to age, dementia has become a significant concern in today's society. The cognitive decline that accompanies dementia compromises a person's ability to engage in daily occupations, such as dressing and toileting. Affected, and often progressively declining, abilities may cause people with dementia to be deprived of a sense of participation¹. Currently, people with dementia require support and assistance in their daily tasks and this need increases as the disease progresses. Assistive technology has the potential to help people with dementia and their families cope and have been developed to support areas such as safety and security, communication, multi-sensory stimulation, and memory enhancement². While there are many types of assistive technologies prescribed and obtained for supporting dementia, there is a limited amount of research that focuses on understanding what and how assistive technology is in use by people living in the community to support their daily occupations. In order to develop effective interventions and technologies for older adults with dementia and their family caregivers, it is crucial that practitioners and designers understand the factors that cause assistive technologies to be useful or abandoned. The goal of this research is to identify and describe the assistive technology being used in the community to support the everyday occupations of older adults with dementia as informed by both family caregivers and occupational therapists. This study is a pilot to develop and validate data collection methodologies that will be used in a large, international study on the same topic. **Method** Ten family caregivers of older adults with dementia and ten community-based occupational therapists will participate in a semi-structured interview in order to identify and describe the assistive technology being used. Questions in the interview were formulated based on a review of the literature, occupational therapy theory, clinical experience, and engineering design considerations. The interview will contain both quantitative and qualitative questions and will be analyzed using descriptive statistic techniques. **Results & Discussion** General trends and a critical analysis of the data collection methods will be presented and discussed. This research will provide valuable design considerations for developers of new assistive technologies as well as knowledge for health care professionals regarding which types of assistive technology are in use and why they are being used. Importantly, factors that impact device use or abandonment will be identified, allowing for better designs and recommendations of assistive technologies to support people with dementia living in the community.

References

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