

Conference Proceeding: Videoconference System for Alzheimer's Patients at Home

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ABSTRACT: In this paper a videoconference system which has been specifically designed for persons with Alzheimer's disease is proposed. The system has been designed to be used at home and it aims to improve communication between our target users and their caregivers. To maximize user-friendliness, the videoconference system is integrated into a common television set and, a realistic virtual character (i.e. avatar) that plays the role of a personal videoconference assistant is integrated on the TV set as well. To test the whole concept, a Wizard-of-Oz prototype has been built and then validated with a target group of 8 persons with Alzheimer's disease. Validations took place at IZA, a day-care centre situated in San Sebastián (Spain) and were conducted by a group of validation and gerontological experts. The results showed that all sample subjects understood the instructions given by the avatar and were able to hold the videoconference satisfactorily.

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