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Feasibility of using a personal assistant for dementia (PAD) in individuals with early-stage dementia

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Dementia is a progressive, largely irreversible, clinical condition, characterised by global deterioration in intellectual function, behaviour and personality¹. It affects almost one million people in the United Kingdom² and by 2050, 152 million global cases are expected. Dementia is devastating and costly, with current UK healthcare costs of £26 billion annually³ and expected global costs of \$2 trillion by 2030⁴. 66% of these are individual care costs³. This study evaluates the feasibility of using a phone, iPad, or home screen Personal Assistant for Dementia (PAD) in people with early-stage dementia. It explores, specifically the use of orientation screens, daily reminders, medication prompts, healthy eating aids, active living exercises, wellbeing activities, brain training exercises, lost language aids, map functions, memory screens, key contacts, home safety and emergency access functions. Results suggest potential positive effects on wellbeing, confidence, and independence in individuals with early-stage dementia. All study participants provided positive PAD feedback, with 80% reporting increased confidence and independence. Screen preferences, study limitations and potential PAD improvements were evaluated.