

Information and Communication technologies (ICT)

There is evidence that apart from the currently used assessment methods for apathy, new ICT approaches could provide clinicians with valuable additional information for detection and therefore more accurate diagnosis of apathy. Actigraphy and methods used to monitor motor activity and rest-activity rhythms had already demonstrated to be accurate and related to apathy. Other methodologies (voice analysis, video analysis, use of serious games) already are used but only at the moment in research setting.

Caution: Such technologies must be used and interpreted with caution in patients with movement disorders (Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, progressive supranuclear palsy, ...). These patients often have reduced total activity, in relation with their motor symptoms. In the same way, they speak slowly, with an hypophonic voice, have a low speech rate due to speech and respiratory disorders. They also have an hypomimic face that can give the impression they do not react to emotion while it is not really the case. Hence, the proposed measures need to be used with reservations. What is needed for pharmacological clinical trials - To provide the scientific rational (biological basis) for targeting specific dimensions; - To provide the relation with the product intended for development (mechanism of action); To provide justification for the choice of endpoint.