Social robots for older adults: exploring different activities

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A qualitative design through a focus group method pointed that there are some activities in which independent-living older adults, i.e., older adults that do not depend upon anyone to carry out their activities, require a robot.

Methodology

- 16 participants (12 females, 4 males; M age = 78.69, σ = 12.20) from a day-home care institution in Lisbon
- Focus group methodology with three phases:
  1. Information and sensitizing
  2. Brainstorming session
  3. Choosing Robots

Results

The majority of different activities refers to IADL, where the robot would be an extra help.
A large number of activities concerns BADL related with personal hygiene.
EADL and SA emerged as the activities in which older adults require the robot for communicating with the outside world.
Service robots were chosen to perform all types of activities due to their physicality since they are perceived as able to accomplish multiple tasks.

Conclusions