New technologies and aging in Wallonia.

J Petermans, C Boulanger, S Piccard

University of Liege Belgium

Increase of technology into the daily living is a common phenomenon. However, we don’t know if what is proposed is usual and adapted.

Material and method: a regional online questionary among persons over 40, concerning the devices, the frequency of use, the health preoccupation, the usefulness,... was performed.

Results: 11242 persons (53% men, 47% female) divided in 2 equal groups (40 to 60 years / > 60) responded. 94% had a computer, 53% a tablet, 70% a smartphone. No difference between the 2 populations except for the smartphone much present in the young (p<0,00). They all use the device at least once a day, the perceived competence for computer and smartphone are more often considered than for tablets. The utility of the tablet is less perceived in the olders (p<0,00)

Seniors don’t use internet for information on the health much than younger; there is no difference for the good utilization of internet (86%) and confidence on the information (54%). No difference in the feeling of robustness between the 2 groups (90%/88%); motricity, fatigue, and nutrition, are more frequently considered, especially in frail. 52% accept an automatic transfer of information and 48% not without difference in the 2 groups.

Discussion and conclusion: except for the utilization of smartphone no difference is observed according with age in the population, neither in the ability to use internet nor in the confidence on information obtained. Preoccupation of functional status is more important in the > 60, if they are non robust. Half of the persons accept automatic transfer.