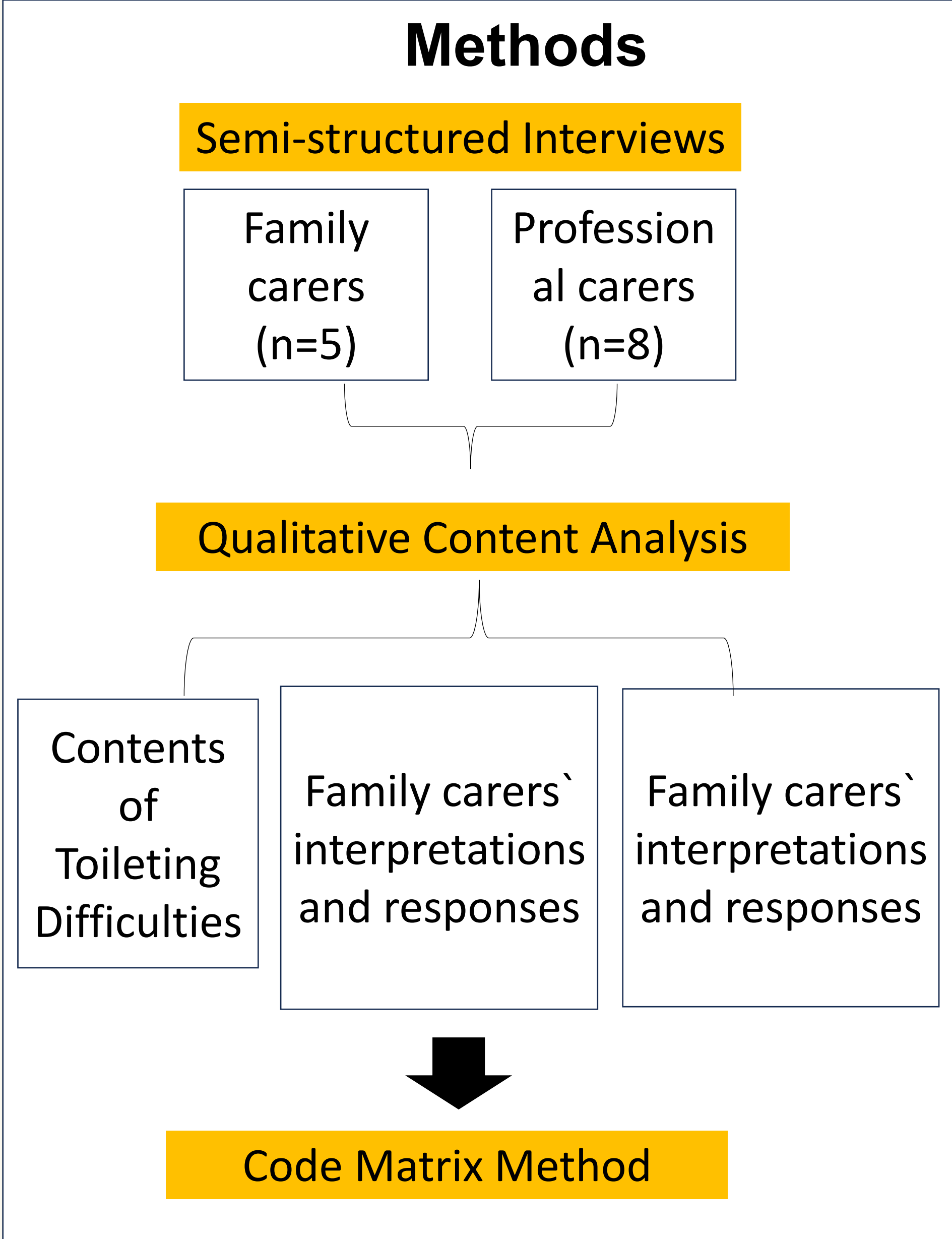
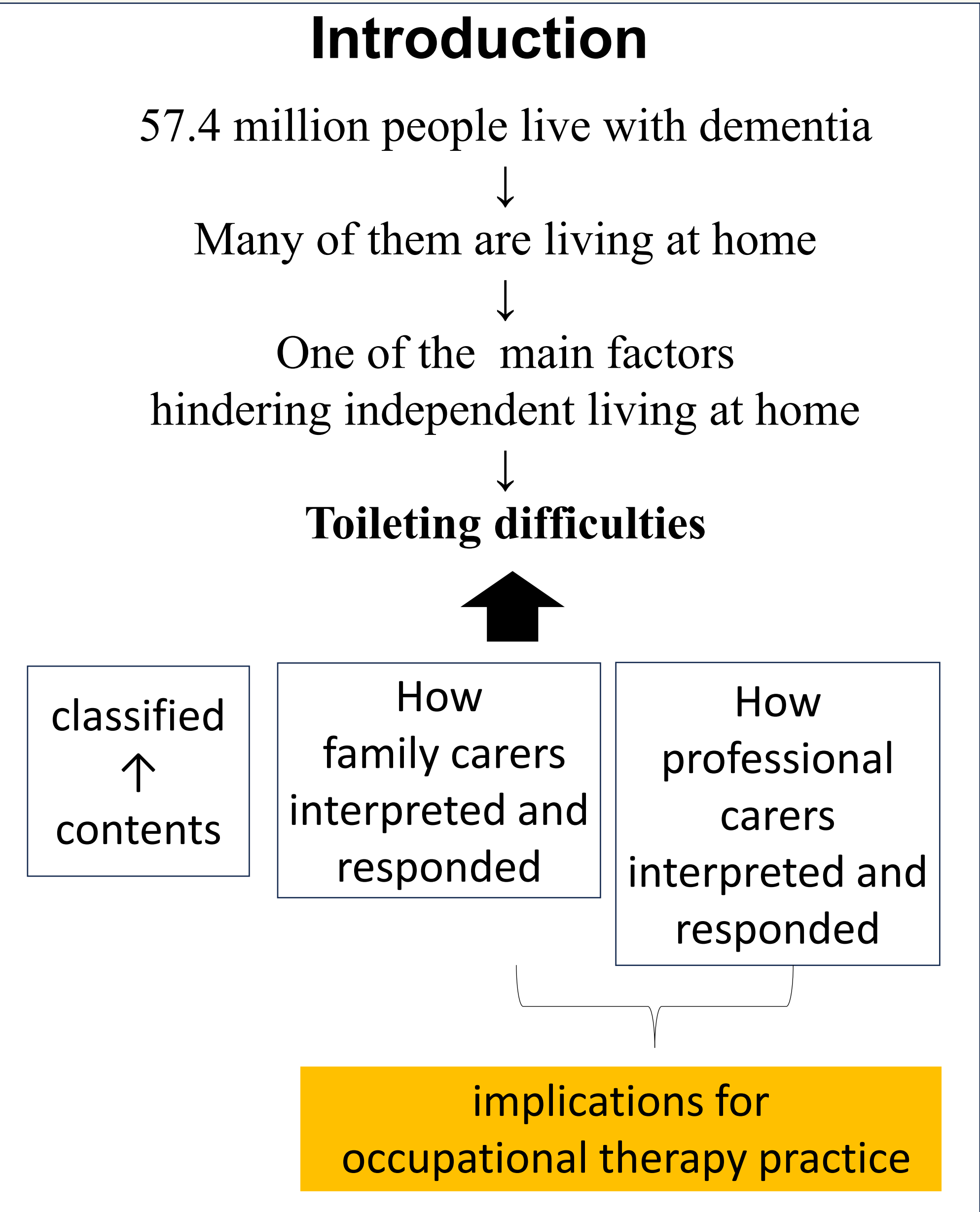


Understanding dementia-related toileting difficulties at home: A qualitative study of family and professional carers' interpretations and responses

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Results

3 domains, 14 categories, 39 subcategories

FC1: 'I've fitted a lamp at foot level along the route from the room to the toilet so she can follow it, but even so, there are times when she cannot make it to the toilet.'

FC3 : 'She used to be someone who never caused trouble for others like this, but now (since developing dementia), even though I'm helping her with things she can't do herself, she won't cooperate. I suppose she's simply lost that sense of cooperation.'

CW1 : 'As they were becoming increasingly unable to recognize the urge to urinate, there was no point in instructing them to report it.'

CW3 stated, "When verbal instructions are difficult to get through, I try to give concise, clear verbal cues; if they still don't understand, I assist with physical actions such as bending their knees."

	Family carers	Professional carers
Interpretation	Based on individual's personality/history	Caused by the disease/Medication
Response	Emotional reaction/Approaches to independence	Based on past experience/Support with respect
Emotion	Frustration & Resignation	Calm / Routine

Discussion and Conclusions

- Family carers and professional carers understood toileting difficulties through different explanatory models.
- Family carers tended to interpret toileting difficulties based on the person's personality, life history, or their existing relationship with them.
- Professional carers, on the other hand, understood these difficulties as cognitive or communication impairments resulting from dementia, and adjusted their support methods accordingly.
- Participants frequently referred to memory and communication difficulties, visual-perceptual impairment was largely absent from their accounts.
- This does not demonstrate that visual-perceptual impairment caused the toileting difficulties observed; this potential contributor may be under-recognized in everyday care.
- Initiatives by occupational therapists to create environments that are visually accessible to people living with dementia, and efforts to help carers understand the characteristics of visual perception in people living with dementia, appear promising for maintaining and improving daily living performance in relation to toileting.

Take-home message:
Occupational therapy initiatives focused on visual accessibility can reduce carers' burden and support independent living.

- There is no COI relationship with any company that should be disclosed in this presentation.
- This study was conducted with the approval of the Ethical Review Committee of the first presenter's institution.
- We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all participants and their families, as well as to the staff of the care facilities, for their invaluable cooperation in this study.



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