

Caregiver Perspectives on GPS-Based Tracking for Dementia Patients in Mysuru, Karnataka: An Exploratory Study

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Awareness of GPS-based tracking technologies for dementia care remains limited despite widespread familiarity with smartphones, highlighting the need for targeted education and affordable solutions. Bridging the gap between available GPS technology and caregiver awareness would improve the safety and independence of people living with dementia.				
INTRODUCTION	METHODS	RESULTS	CONCLUSIONS	REFERENCES
• Dementia is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder affecting memory, cognition and daily functioning • Wandering is a common behavioural symptom that increases the risk of injury and getting lost. • GPS-based wearable and portable devices can improve patient safety and reduce caregiver burden. • Objective: To evaluate awareness, perceptions and adoption of GPS-based tracking technologies among elderly individuals and caregivers in Mysuru, Karnataka.	• Exploratory cross-sectional survey. • Conducted at old-age homes, senior citizen groups and community organisations in Mysuru. • Approximately 250 participants. • Structured questionnaire used to assess awareness of dementia and GPS tracking technologies. • Participants were introduced to GPS-based mobility tracking devices before discussion.	• Good familiarity with smartphones among participants. • Limited awareness of GPS tracking for dementia care. • Cost identified as a major barrier to adoption. • Low awareness of affordable GPS tracking devices. • Participants expressed positive interest after awareness sessions.	• Elderly individuals must be made aware of the various GPS mobility tracking devices and their usability, which can be highly beneficial in managing various issues associated with dementia. • The findings highlight a significant gap between available technology and its practical adoption in dementia care. • Addressing this gap through targeted awareness initiatives and affordable solutions can improve patient safety and reduce caregiver burden.	[1] Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI). <i>World Alzheimer Report 2025: Reimagining Life with Dementia</i>. [2] Pot, A. M., Willemse, B. M., & Horjus, S. (2012). <i>A pilot study on the use of GPS technology for persons with dementia and their caregivers</i>. Journal of Housing for the Elderly. [3] Landau, R., Werner, S., Auslander, G. K., Shoval, N., & Heinik, J. (2010). <i>Attitudes of family and professional caregivers towards the use of GPS for tracking people with dementia: An exploratory study</i>. British Journal of Social Work.
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