

Caregiver use of an activity engagement scale for people living with dementia: An exploratory study

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Background:

- Activity engagement is a core concept in occupational therapy and a key contributor to quality of life for people living with dementia.
- As dementia progresses, individuals often experience a reduced ability to engage in meaningful activities, which can negatively affect well-being and overall quality of life.
- This highlights the need for a shared framework among care partners and multidisciplinary care team members to assess activity engagement and to guide person-centered interventions.

Main Objective:

This study explored the feasibility of care partners using the Engagement of a Person with Dementia Scale (EPWDS).

Methods:

An exploratory mixed-methods study.

Positive and negative activity engagement



Affective



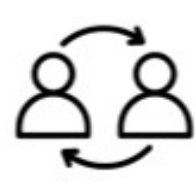
Visual



Verbal

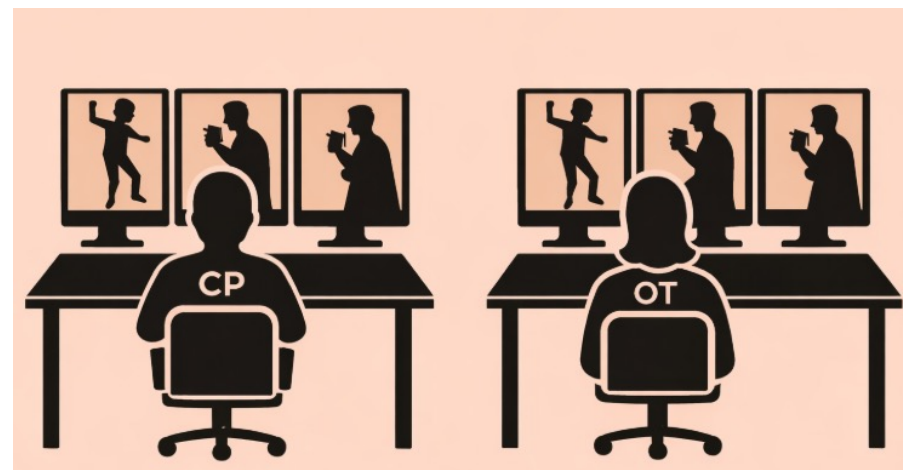
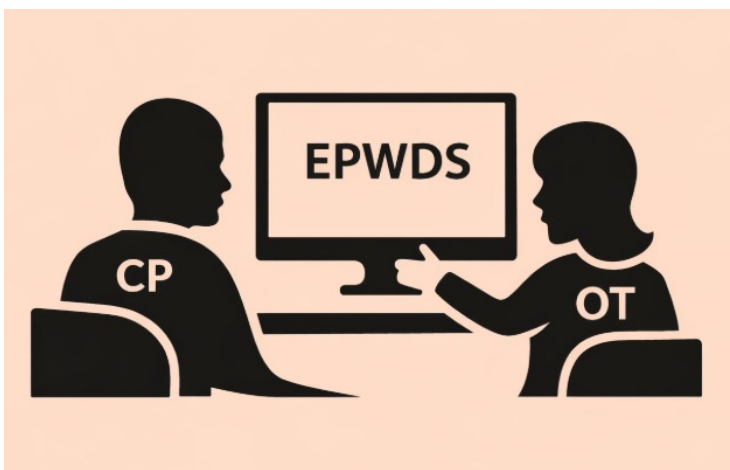


Behavioral



Social

EPWDS (Jones et al., 2018)



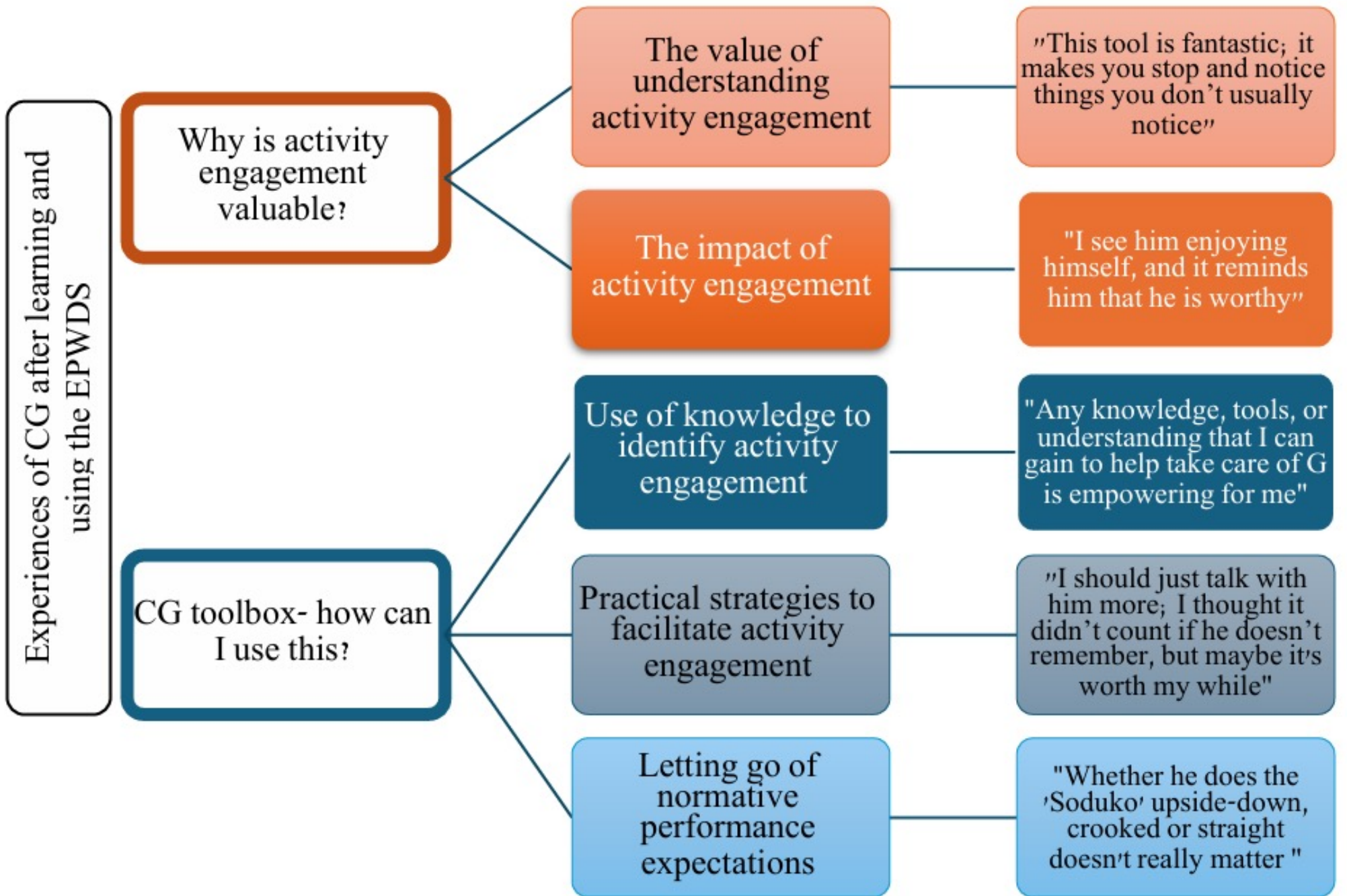
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Key Findings

Feasibility:

- Ease of use- Care partners completed the training and used the EPWDS.
- Acceptability- Perceived importance and relevance.



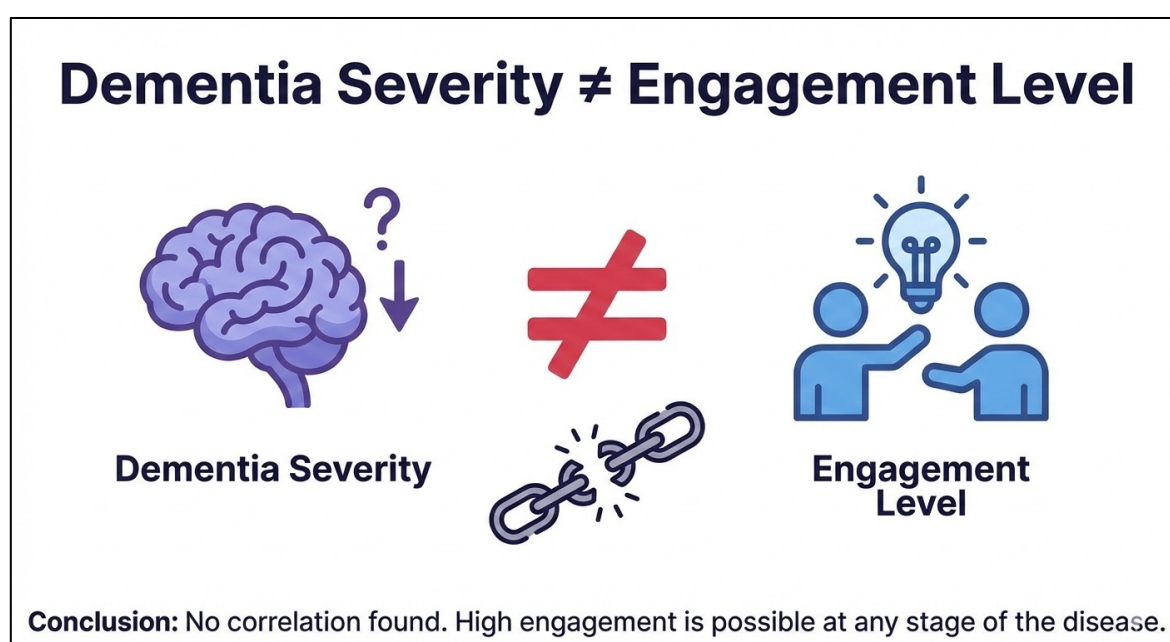
Rater agreement:

High levels of agreement were found between the OT and the care partner ratings.

Engagement variability:

Significant within-subject differences confirmed the EPWDS detects variations in engagement based on the activity.

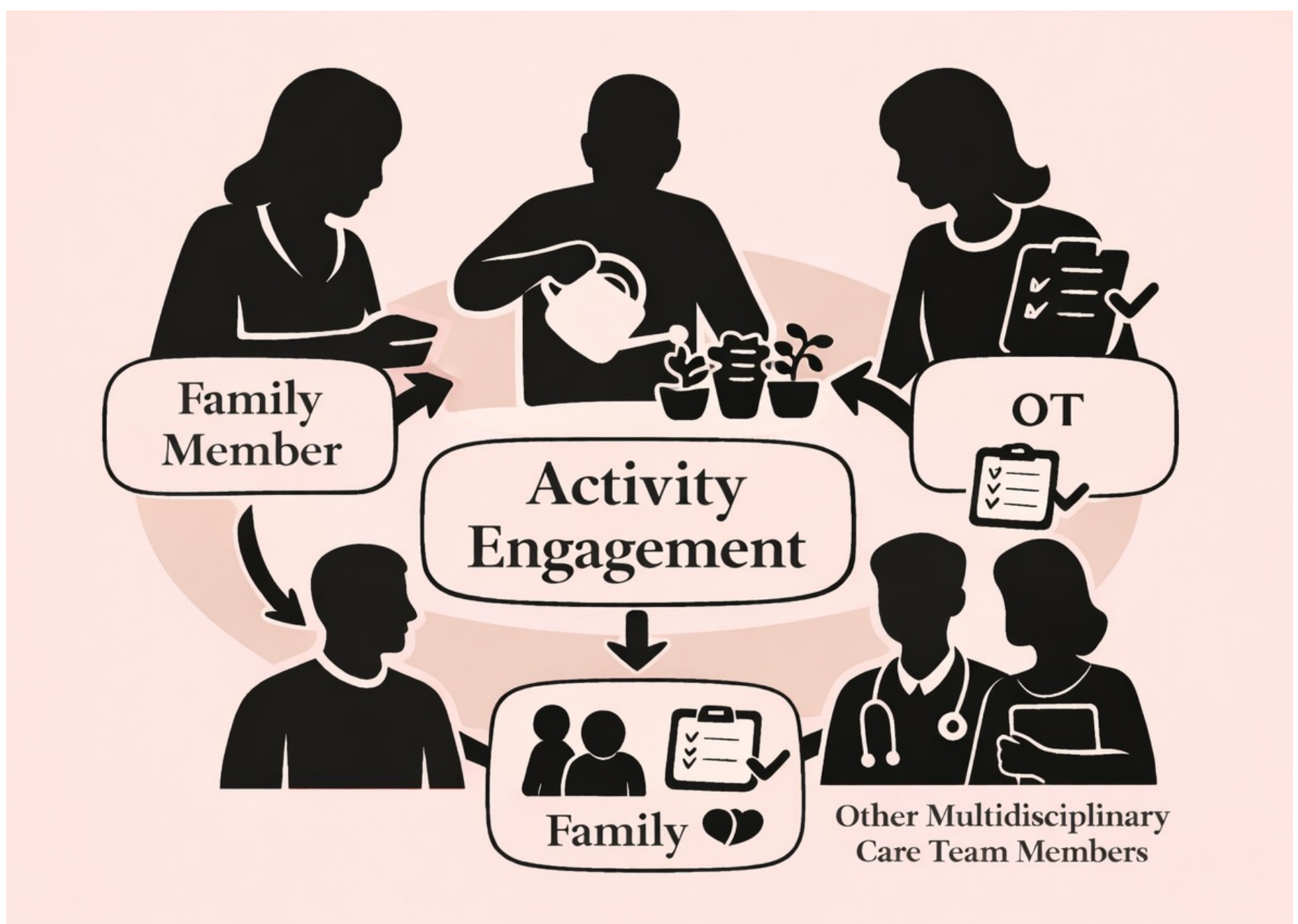
Correlations with dementia severity:



Significance to OT

Bridging the Gap in Dementia Care

- The EPWDS is feasible for care partner use.
- Potential to support a shared understanding of activity engagement among care partners and Ots.
- Builds caregiver capacity to identify activity engagement.
- OTs are well positioned to lead this process
- Empowering care partners this way supports truly person-centered care for people living with dementia.



In memory of Carmel Gat

