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学位論文題名	Methodology for User and User's Life Centered Clinical Evaluation of Assistive Technology (ULCEAT):Evaluation with Prototype Roboticed® (使用者中心の福祉機器臨床評価手法：プロトタイプロボティック ベッドの評価)
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【論文の内容の要旨】

Background: Clinical evaluation of novel assistive technologies is of utmost importance, as this would help in making such technologies practical and ensuring that they suit the user's requirements. In this paper, we propose a methodology for a user and user's life centered clinical evaluation of AT (ULCEAT). We discuss our methodology (i.e., evaluation by rehabilitation professionals and users) and demonstrate it by using it to clinically evaluate Roboticed , which was developed by the Panasonic Corporation.

Objective: The purpose of this study is to develop a new methodology for the addition of user and user's life centered clinical evaluation of assistive technologies (ULCEAT) to conventional evaluation methods. The proposed ULCEAT methodology consists of two steps: evaluation by rehabilitation professionals and evaluation by potential users. These evaluations were performed to identify target users and to ensure the effective use of new assistive technologies (ATs); the evaluations were based primarily on qualitative research involving the rehabilitation professionals and the potential users.

Methods: The methodology was demonstrated by using it for the clinical evaluation of Roboticed.

Results: Our proposed methodology was confirmed through clinical evaluation of Panasonic's Roboticbed. From our results, three types of users were identified, and their ability to effectively use Roboticbed was confirmed. The results also demonstrated the utility of evaluation by rehabilitation professionals and potential users of the ULCEAT methodology. The validity of this methodology was further confirmed by a user evaluation of Roboticbed in an experimental environment.

Conclusions: The findings of this study will be used to help conduct conventional clinical evaluations for novel and prototype ATs.