

Public summary

In the upcoming years, there will be an increase in the number of people with dementia (Alzheimer Nederland, 2018) and a reduction in the available caregivers (STG in Mutsaers, 2008; Alzheimer Nederland, 2018). By using labor-saving technologies, efforts have been made to minimize the effects of these developments (Knibbe, 2010; Mutsaers, 2008). One of these technologies that is already being used in healthcare are patient lifts. However, caregivers from the professional field notice that residents of care institutions, with advanced dementia, experience anxiety during movements (“transfers”) with these patient lifts. This research can be seen as a follow-up to the study of Panton in which solutions are being sought to make this experience less traumatic. The first concepts are not currently satisfactory, partly because the underlying causes for the problem are not correctly identified. The current project builds on this preliminary study and addresses the question of what adjustments or additions can be made to modern patient lifts to make the experience of residents of care institutions with advanced dementia more pleasant. The research is carried out by using the Double diamond method (Design Council, 2005). It first examines previous conducted research. As a result, relevant literature will be studied and the problem will be mapped. By using different design methods, themes for concepts are being formed. In practice, these will be evaluated with prototypes. The results of this evaluation will lead to a final concept, which will be visualized and explained by an usage scenario. The result of this research is a product based on stimulating an active presence for the user by using a focal point that consists of tactile elements. This makes an attempt to get the user more awake, which reduces abruption and thus fear. If fear does occur, the product can communicate this to the caregiver by using visual elements that are implemented in the product. Another important aspect of the product is the appearance that stimulates pleasant use and affection. The product allows the user to experience security, distraction and a human contact moment which will take away the fear. However, the final concept is based on evaluations which were conducted with a limited number of participants and a (partly) different target group than previously determined. Thereby, it is known that people with dementia respond differently per moment, which can influence the result. It is recommended to evaluate the final concept in a follow-up study with more participants during a longer period of use. Results should lead to a workable product that improves the usage experience of a patient lift for people with advanced dementia.

