Virtual Dementia Tour Mimics Experience of Individuals With Dementia

Oasis Senior Advisors is offering the Virtual Dementia Tour (VDT) as a way to give caregivers, health care workers, and family members a firsthand glimpse of what an individual with dementia experiences.

The VDT was developed by a geriatric specialist and can be conducted in a variety of settings, including on the road via Oasis Senior Advisors’ recreational vehicle. The VDT attempts to mimic the daily experience of individuals with dementia to give participants an idea of what it might be like to live with the disease.

Tour participants receive inserts in their shoes designed to mimic the feeling of neuropathy that often accompanies Alzheimer’s disease and other age-related conditions. They wear gloves that make it difficult to use their hands, and headphones that exhibit background noise inherent in everyday life. They wear glasses that impair vision, making everything blurry, another condition of aging.

While all of these distractions take place, VDT participants are asked to perform simple, everyday tasks, such as setting a table, walking, picking up objects, and counting coins. Participants find these tasks much harder, if not impossible.


Wearable Device Will Notify Older Adults When to Use the Bathroom

DFree, a connected wearable device that can track the progression of bladder movements using non-invasive ultrasonic sensors, will help older adults who experience incontinence by predicting and notifying the right timing to go to the bathroom. As a result, older adults no longer have to worry about accidents and can often forgo the embarrassment of wearing incontinence products.

A sensor is secured to the lower abdomen using medical tape and uses ultrasound to monitor change in bladder size. The notification is then sent to a smartphone or tablet used by the patient or caregiver to inform them when it is necessary to go to the bathroom.