

Implementation of Tele-Rehabilitation System Combined with Video Call Center

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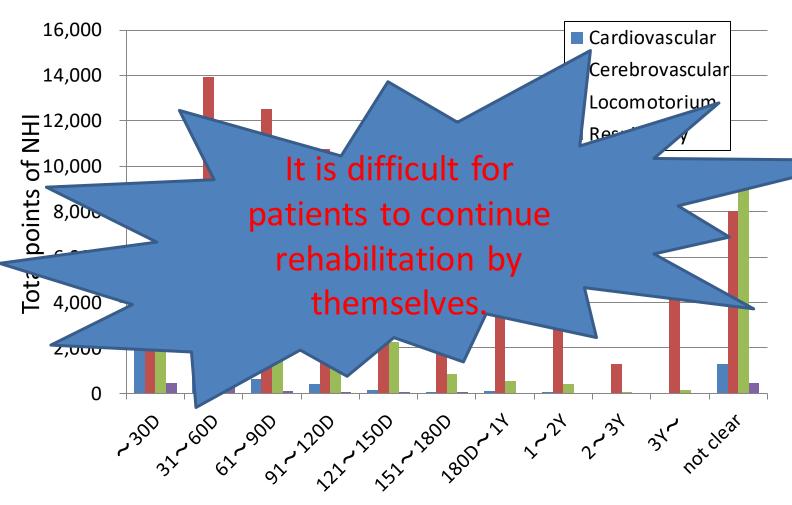
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Bangkok, Thailand 14-16 November 2016

Background (1)

- Low birthrate and rapidly aging population are;
 - causing medical expenses to take up ever more of the national budget.
 - leading to a shortage of young medical professionals.
- Medical treatments, including rehabilitation, are being shifted from hospital-care to home-care.
- The amount of rehabilitation therapy in a home done by a visiting physiotherapist is limited by law and is insufficient for patients to recover completely.

Background (2) - Duration of feeding period -



Days after starting treatment

Background (3)

- Our system has following two features to help patients continuously:
 - A patient can check data to see the effect of rehabilitation. This time, we use Microsoft KINECT to measure strain of the upper body.
 - A call center operator guides patients through the therapy and encourages them with conversation through the Internet.

Purpose (1)

- Tele-rehabilitation system combined with a video call center
 - Behalf of a physiotherapist, call center operators guide patients through the therapy and encourages patients with their voice.



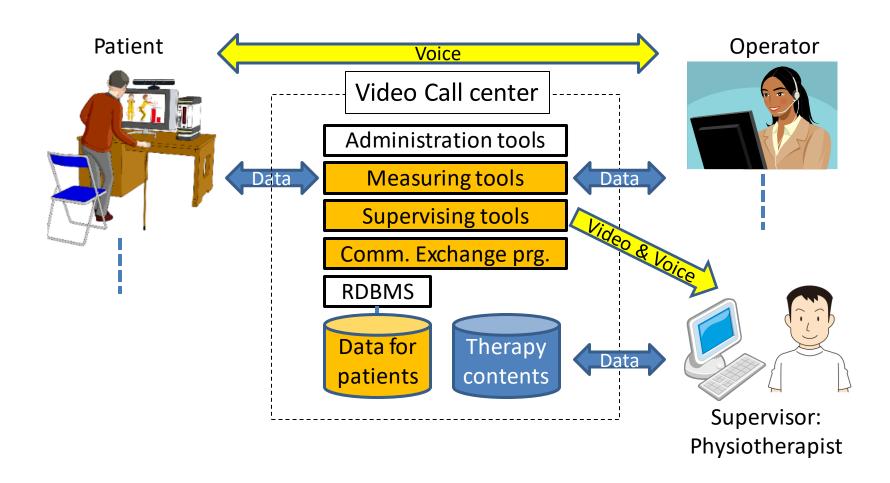
- Medical expense will be suppressed.
 - Personal expenses will decrease
 - Transportation cost will decrease

Basic idea to continue rehabilitation

 Practical data that shows the patients getting better will more effectively encourage them to continue rehabilitation.

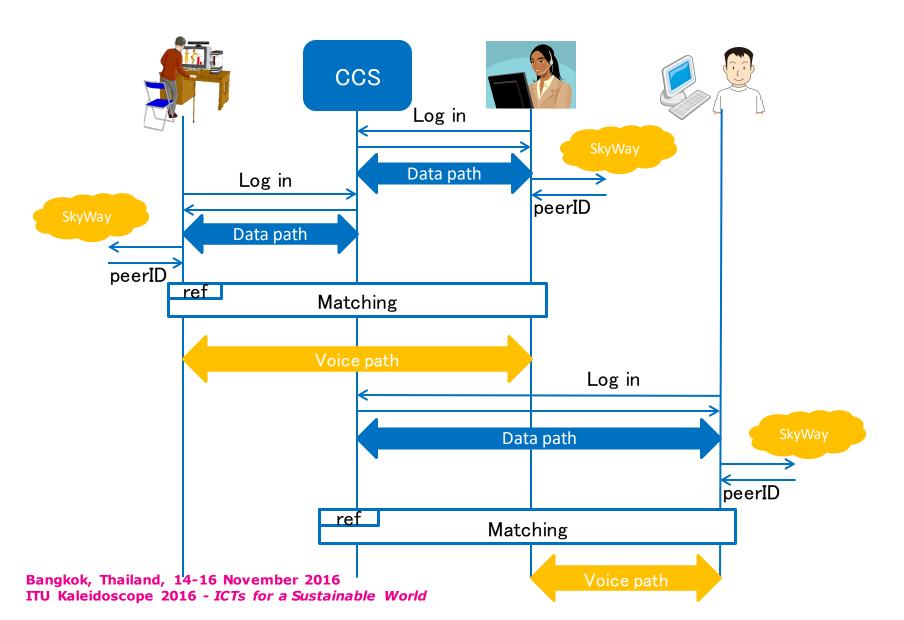
 Hearing a person's voice is likely to cheer patients up.

Concept of the tele-rehabilitation system

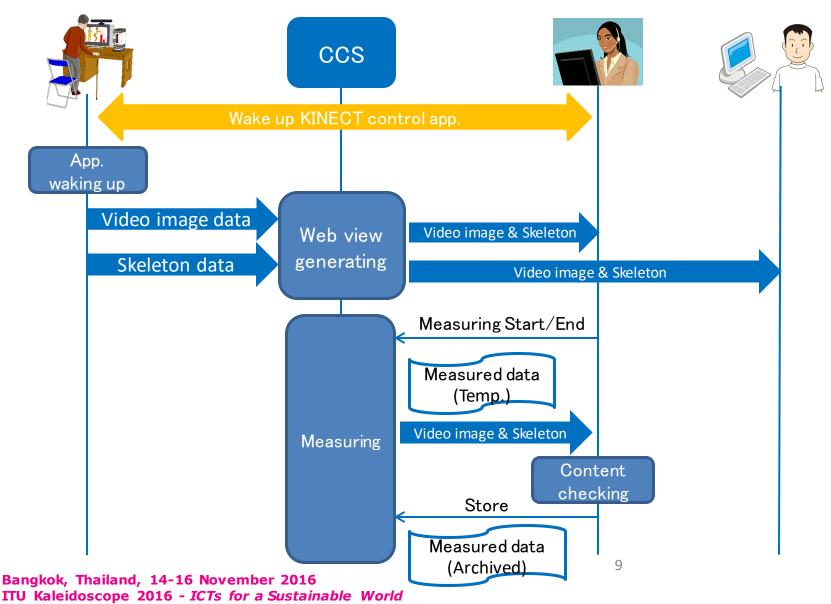


Implementation

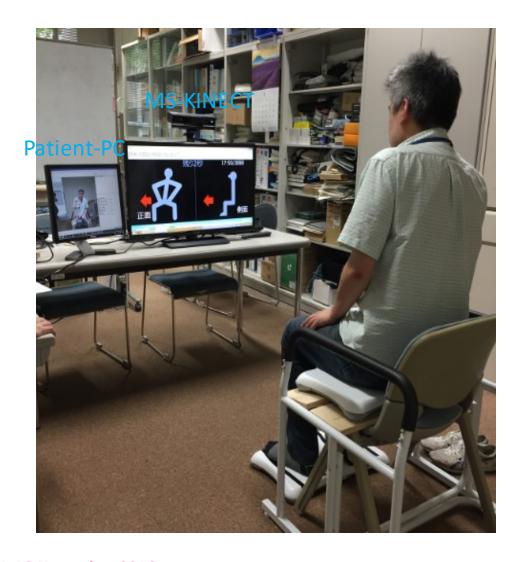
- Communication exchange program -



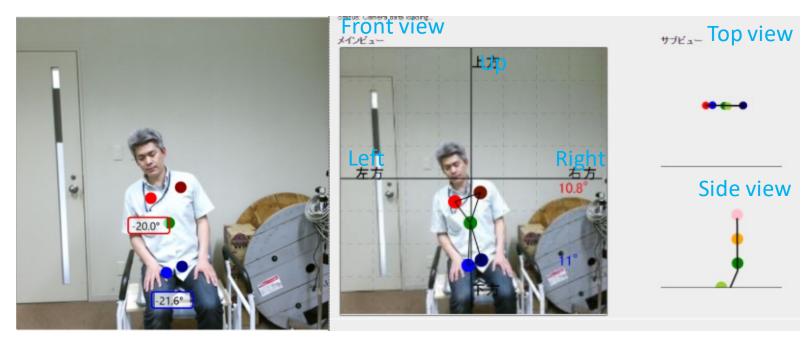
Implementation - Measuring tool -



Training scene for a patient



Screenshots from a patient-PC and an operator-PC

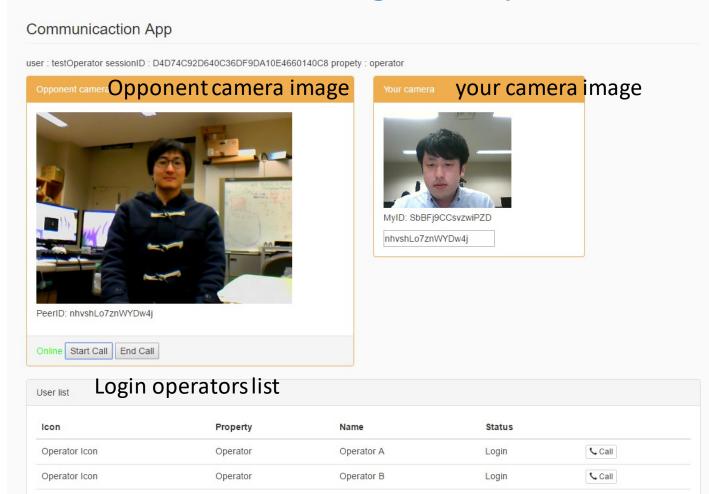


(a) Screen shot of a patient-PC

(b) Screen shot of a patient of an operator-PC

Implementation

- Communication image at a patient-PC -



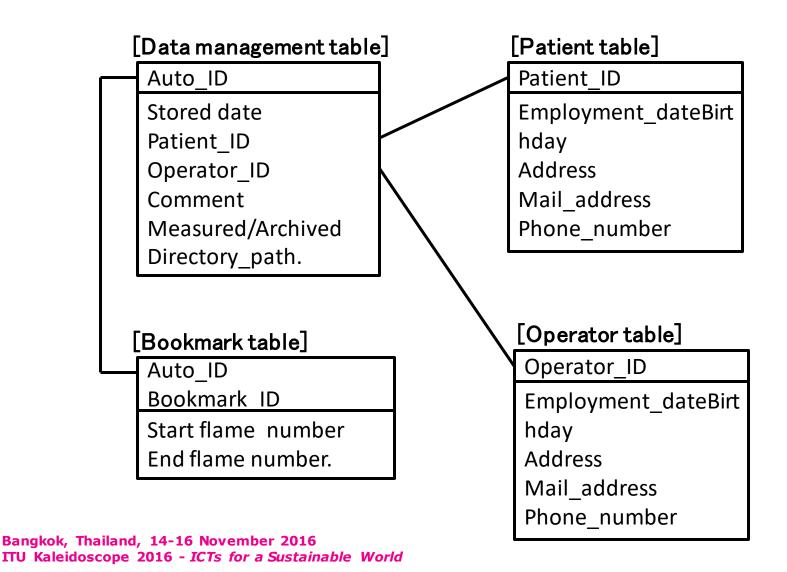
Operator C

Busy

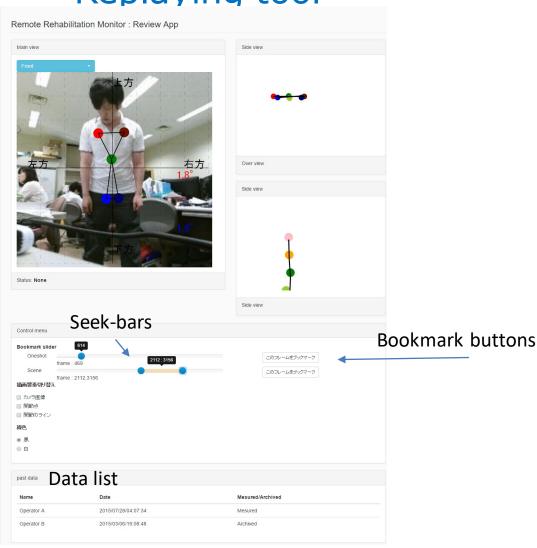
Operator

Operator Icon

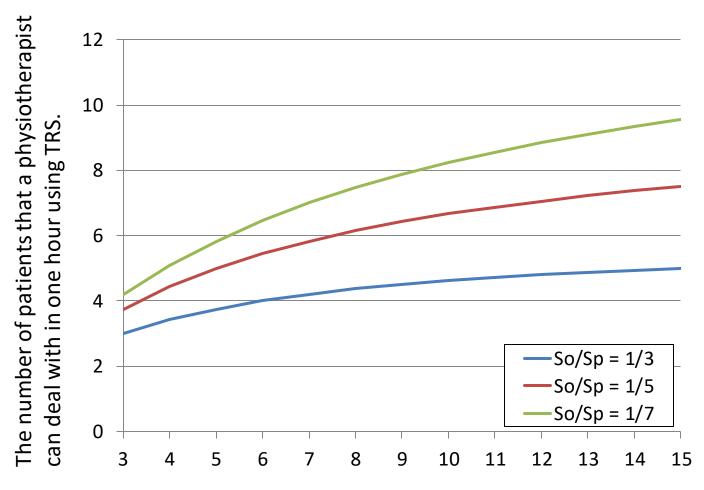
Implementation - Searching tool: E-R Diagram-



Implementation - Replaying tool -



Effect for shortage of physiotherapist in TRS



The number of operators that a physiotherapist supervised

Conclusion

- We developed a tele-rehabilitation system that enables a video call center operator to coach a patient in place of a physiotherapist and a physiotherapist to supervise multiple operators.
- We believe the proposed system will help to suppress the increase of medical expenses and make up for the shortage of young medical professions caused by low birthrates and rapidly aging populations.

Problems to putting TRS on the market

- For healthcare insurance to cover it, TRS has to be approved by the government department in charge of healthcare.
- The national healthcare insurance in Japan covers only face-to-face rehabilitation, not tele-rehabilitation. Thus, TRS will need to be licensed for the national healthcare insurance to cover it.
- If a license cannot be obtained, a new business model will be needed for business operators to continue this business.
- Criteria for evaluation are needed to maintain service quality. At the very least, criteria an operator has to learn are needed.
- Standardization of protocol for training contents or tools to connect TRS.

Thank you for attentions.

Questions?