

## INTRODUCTION

- Empirical evidence demonstrates benefits of AAC communication for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- However, trends of refusal and abandonment of AAC systems by these populations have been documented
- *Diffusion of Innovations* by Everett Rogers introduces a framework conceptualizing why some innovations encounter uptake while others suffer abandonment or refusal
- The framework includes four factors that are cited as contributing to uptake: the innovation, communication channels, time, and the social system
- This study examines the characteristics important to the innovation factor in order to provide data specific to the innovation of AAC systems
- These characteristics include relative advantage, compatibility, complexity, trialability, observability, and re-invention

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What is the current literature on AAC abandonment and refusal?
- How do the addressed factors of refusal/abandonment in the literature correlate to Rogers's *Diffusion of Innovation*?

## METHODOLOGY

- Relevant literature was identified through a comprehensive search reflecting qualitative systematic review guidelines
- Five articles providing novel data of parent perspectives of AAC were identified and selected for further study
- The five articles were coded according to Rogers's identified characteristics of innovation
- Following the coding of each article, an overarching table was created in which the researcher compiled themes of abandonment and refusal with the frequency of the characteristics of innovation

## RESULTS

*Number of Occurrences of Everett Rogers's Characteristics of Innovation in Themes Identified by Researcher from Five Selected Articles of Study*

Theme	Number of Occurrence of Innovation Characteristic											
	Relative Advantage		Compatibility		Complexity		Trialability		Observability		Re-invention	
	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-
AAC device selection			1		2		1					
Operational & functional components		1		7		6						
Linguistic components				3		3			1			
Barriers with professionals		2		5		6		2				
Barriers in consistency		1		4		4				1		
Community aspects	2	1	2	5		1						
Technology supports & training			1		3							
Evidence of success	3		4	1					5			
Integration into family life		1	1	3		1				1		
Disinterest in using AAC as intended				5		1						
AAC cost	1			2				1				
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

- There were no instances of re-invention in the data, trialability was coded 5 times (all negatively), observability was found 8 times total (6 positive and 2 negative), relative advantage was identified 12 times (6 instances of both positive and negative), while complexity was coded a total of 29 times (only 3 instances positively), and compatibility was found 45 times (only 10 being positive)

## CONCLUSIONS

- Because this study examines existing literature and does not produce novel data, strong clinical implications cannot be drawn from this study
- However, the need for further research, specifically in areas relating to compatibility and complexity of AAC systems, is notable
- More studies would provide more significant clinical implications to provide professionals with more knowledge to combat the trend of abandonment and refusal of AAC

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