

C. DA SILVA SANTANA, F.R. DEFANTI E SOUZA. **Use of ICT by recently widowed or divorced Brazilian women.** *Gerontechnology* 2016;15(suppl):60s; doi:10.4017/gt.2016.15.s.865.00 **Purpose** the proportion of elderly in the population has increased significantly. Aging brings as a consequence the functional decline, limiting their independence and making the learning of new skills. Female life expectancy is higher than that of men, often leading to female widowhood. Widowhood and divorce are situations that may bring the woman needing to take on new tasks, as well as learning how to use information and communication technologies that were not part of their daily lives. This requires the development of skills in order to adopt the new equipment and perform new tasks independently. Due to natural aging and functional decline, the limited experience in the use of the equipment, does make it a challenge to them. In this way, the process of adaptation of woman to take on new tasks and adopt new equipment in their daily life shows itself as an important topic to be studied. **Method** exploratory study, correlational, sectional, with a qualitative-quantitative approach. To the attending women were applied: (i) the Mini-Mental State Examination¹, the Index of Lawton and Brody², a socio-demographic questionnaire³ and an interview 'New tasks and technologies in everyday life'. The collected data were tabulated in Epi Info software®, divided into thematic categories and subjected to content analysis. **Results & Discussion** Participants were 96 women (43 married, 28 widow, 17 divorced, 8 single), aged 50 to 86 years, with an average of 62.5 years. It was observed that the death of relatives, or their illness (primarily of the husband), demanded that women adapt to take on new tasks, requiring directly and indirectly the development of new skills and the use of new equipment in daily life. It was observed that women have difficulties in adopting the equipment due to the ergonomic features, specifically, barriers imposed by equipment such as language in English, small keys, poor contrast between buttons and color. About personal difficulties to use digital equipment and ICT services are related to lack of previous experience in the use of ICT, trouble remembering how to use and comprehend ICT functions, difficulty in solving problems, little concentration ability, visual impairment (decreased acuity and / or visual field) and illiteracy^{4,5}. **Conclusion** Widowhood and divorce can demand that women assume new tasks, however few demanded directly the adoption of new equipment. There was a need for indirect adoption, mainly the search for new forms of leisure and contact with family members. The results of this study can help the process of adaptation of women and facilitate the adoption of the equipment and the development of appropriate strategies.

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