

# VGo Telepresence Pilot in Pediatrics

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## Introduction

- Pediatric cancer generates major family crisis.
- Diagnosis results in long hospitalizations.
- Long term hospitalization results in negative cognitive, emotional, and social development.
- Psychosocial support limits long-term psychological and psychosocial complications.
- Innovative technologies should be evaluated as methods to decrease negative affects.

### VGo Robot

- Used in schools settings for homebound children and pediatric hospitals with success.
- A 4-foot high robot that moves much like a Segway.
- Patient operates the VGo remotely from an iPad.
- Screen on the robot displays operators face, the operator views what the robot “sees” on the iPad.



## Staff Involved

- Old Dominion University (ODU) Telehealth Faculty/Staff
- CHKD Unit Director, Manager, Clinical Educator
- Director of Information Technology
- Information Technology Compliance Officer
- Staff Nurses
- Child Life Staff

## Program

- Proof of concept trial
- VGo on loan from ODU
- Goal to enhance patient engagement.
- IT staff set-up wireless connection
- Core staff educated/responsible for encouraging patient use
- 360 evaluation done weekly
- 4 week trial
- Over 12 children utilized Vgo
- Vgo operated throughout unit, to play room, and to visit other patients in their rooms.



## Program Outcomes

Patient, family and staff comments:

- 1) “He was in such a bad mood when he came back from physical therapy! I haven’t seen him smile like this in weeks”- father of 9-year old cancer patient.
- 2) “I have not seen him that engaged during any of his hospitalizations” - RN caring for teenager with multiple lengthy hospitalizations for chemotherapy/disease related complications.
- 3) “It is amazing that Jordan could visit my son from another room! My son has not left his bed for days.” - mother of 9-year old on isolation precautions.
- 4) “If you need help with VGo, ask my son! He is already a pro at this. It has gotten him up and out of bed way more than usual.” –mother of a Sickle Cell patient frequently admitted for pain crisis.
- 5) “She was so quiet and bored, stuck in her room on isolation. She really came out of her shell and showed her sense of humor when she got to use VGo and roam the halls and interact via the robot.”- RN caring for an 11 year old cancer patient.

- This project has received overwhelming institutional support from executives, nursing staff, information technology, marketing and development.
- Patients and family embraced the program.



## Future Plans

- Investigating funds for purchasing one Vgo for each unit
- Expanding use
- Develop hospital policies
- Assign the VGo to Telehealth/Child Life Department
- Research patient outcomes related to: 1) engagement, 2) anxiety, 3) isolation, and 4) socialization
- Publish experience in Pediatric Oncology Journal
- Serve as a model for staff research and policy development





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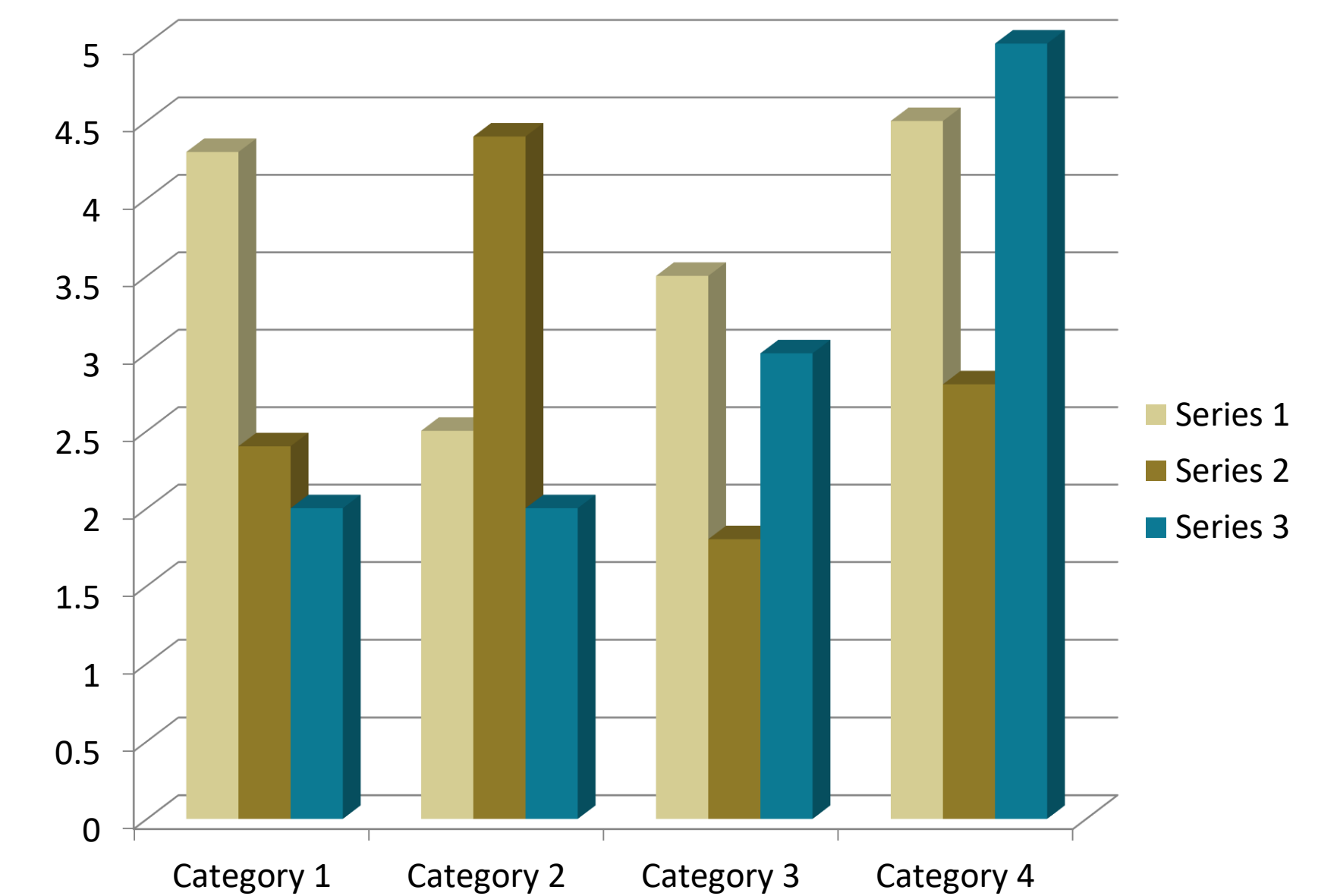
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