



**Using Azam software for the stimulation, rehabilitation and arousal of coma and brain injured patients**

**An international live research project**

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## **Executive one page Azam summary for busy Hospital Consultants, Surgeons and Senior Nursing Staff**

Azam is an easy to use commercial PC software product that enables audio voice clips and music to be recorded, stored, emailed (from anywhere in the world) and merged from different sources. These voice clips can even be recorded during a pre-planned phone conversation directly onto a PC. Ordinary tape recorders cannot do this. **Azam can and it's free of charge.** Using Azam, patients who are in a coma, brain injured, traumatized or unconscious can be given various forms of audio stimulation to help bring them out of their state.

Azam enables **customized** audio recordings to be produced onto a CD by family and friends, so that the patient can 'listen' to them with headphones via an ordinary portable MP3 or CD player. Azam also enables voice clips to be morphed so that, as an example, grandma's voice can be heard with special effects. These effects include echo, fast, slow and backwards playback, designed to provide **unusual audio stimulation** for the patient. It is worth noting, many doctors often suggest playback of familiar voices to patients. What has not been tested, as far as we are aware, is the **effect on the subconscious unconscious** mind, of playing back these familiar voices with special effects. Ordinary tape recorders cannot do this. **Azam can and it's free of charge.** Your hospital is invited to take part in a simple, easy to manage study.

Hospitals will **not** be asked to produce the recordings or finished CDs, this will be up to the patient's family, who will be provided with Azam software free of charge and technical support, under the auspices of the Azam Disabilities Initiative (ADI) scheme.

The amount of hospital resource required, per medical employee is estimated below in parenthesis.

All we ask from your medical team are the following:

- To **understand** the basic concept of using Azam software as described above. (This will take approximately 12 minutes per medical employee as a one off exercise)
- To **inform the families** of patients, by referring them to our website: [www.azamit.com](http://www.azamit.com). (Ongoing effort, and a maximum of 3 minutes per patient)
- To give **permission** for its use by family members, emphasizing that this is **experimental technology**. (Ongoing effort, but minimum resource)
- To ensure, via nursing staff, that patients are **not exposed** to continuous playback hours on end. (Ongoing effort, but minimum resource)
- To let us know the **test results as soon as possible**. We suggest that a designated point of contact at the hospital will provide information on a simple form that we have prepared. This form can be emailed to a specific email address of [comastats@azamit.com](mailto:comastats@azamit.com), or faxed to +44 (0) 1494 449444 (Ongoing effort, and a maximum of 5 minutes per patient)

The best-case scenario is that Azam will assist some of your patients regain consciousness. The worst-case scenario is that it will bring hope to families who will actually be taking part in the treatment of their loved ones and get them closer together at such a difficult time in their lives.

In the event that a patient recovers consciousness but has memory loss, Azam can also be used over a period of time to facilitate **memory salvaging** and reminders of past events.

**We wish to make it clear this is not a miracle cure and clearly not for use for patients who have serious physical medical conditions.** Finally, if you are a Consultant or Senior Nurse who has in-depth experience in coma recovery techniques and would like to share your experiences or take a more active role in this project, we would appreciate hearing from you. Initially, please email [coma@azamit.com](mailto:coma@azamit.com). Kindly email this page to any medical colleague you feel could be interested.

# Using Azam software for the stimulation, rehabilitation and arousal of coma and brain injured patients

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## Introduction

Under the [Azam Disabilities Initiative \(ADI\)](#) hospital intensive care wards qualify for free use of Azam software in the treatment of brain injured or comatose patients. Family members of the patient may also download Azam free of charge for this purpose but are advised to seek medical supervision as described within this article. Hospitals should email [adi@azamit.com](mailto:adi@azamit.com) to request free software keys. To save on administration, family members are advised to [download Azam](#) and create the recordings they wish to use within the 30 day free trial period. This can be extended indefinitely by sending a request to the above email address.

### Important note

The subject of audio stimulation for coma therapy is controversial. Some doctors believe it helps, others believe it neither helps nor does any harm and the patient will wake up when they are ready. What will be described below is **not** some new miracle cure. We do **not** want to raise the hopes of families who are already under considerable distress. We do **not** recommend any medical procedure be undertaken without medical advice and supervision. Our audio stimulation delivery method cannot help certain comatose conditions, such as after brain surgery or while other physical problems or conditions prevail.

## A brief synopsis relating to coma and how Azam software could help will now be described.

Coma is: "... the total absence of awareness of self and environment even when the subject is externally stimulated."

There have been many studies undertaken relating to coma recovery. Head injury is a major cause of death and permanent disability. In New South Wales, a report from the Government Insurance office indicated that road trauma accounts for 70 percent of cases of severe brain damage and that 50 percent of these occur in the 17 to 25 year age group. The report further indicates that approximately 1,000 people each year are left with a permanent deficit in brain function and that one third will be left seriously disabled for life. These people are often forgotten, seen as being beyond the help of rehabilitative care. However Ian Hunter, in an oral submission to the Parliamentary Social Development Committee inquiry into the options for dying with dignity stated: It

cannot be proven that there is no potential for recovery following brain injury, even in the most severe cases, because there is no known diagnostic test that can scientifically demonstrate that recovery of function will not occur (therefore) every attempt should be made to tap this.

Through controversial coma arousal programmes it is being shown that even when in a coma a person may be reached through the use of external stimulation. Coma arousal is a planned series of activities aimed at "arousing" a person from a coma.

### **Coma arousal therapy**

The basis of coma arousal therapy lies in the frequency, intensity and duration of environmental stimuli that the patient receives. Stimuli may be via the five sensory modalities (vision, hearing, touch, taste and smell) by which the brain receives information about the outside world and physical movement. Sensory stimuli are essential factors in stimulating the reticular activating system (consciousness control centre) to maintain consciousness.

Basically, any comatose patient in a stable medical condition is a suitable subject for a coma arousal programme. Coma mostly results from head trauma sustained in motor vehicle accidents and it is this category of patient most commonly found in coma arousal programmes. Patient assessment is essential prior to commencement of the programme. Dr Freeman (who undertook a coma arousal feasibility study at the Sydney College of Advanced Education) points out that though it is relatively easy to assess the physiological state, it is difficult to measure the degree of brain function. He believes that the Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) enables a uniform approach to assessing severe brain injury but questions its value once the patient is scoring above 9; a score of 8 or less out of a total of 15 is usually considered to indicate coma. Due to possible GCS inaccuracy on scores of 9 or above, Freeman suggests that assessment of brain function should involve determining the patient's visual, auditory and tactile abilities on a continual basis.

Coma arousal therapy should commence as soon as possible after the development of coma and may start in the intensive care unit providing the person's medical condition is stable. Coma arousal programmes are very labour intensive and it has been suggested that the best therapists are those who are interested and caring - frequently relatives or significant others. In addition, those closest to the person are more likely to receive and see a response. As Freeman notes: "Often the relatives have indicated to us that the patient has an awareness which is much greater than we can detect. We listen carefully, because we find them to be right so often."

Some studies have shown stimulation programmes using music can arouse coma patients and provide examples of other stimulation programmes used in the past. The use of music in rehabilitation and the goals of music therapy are described by some doctors. Also studied are the reasons for using music as a stimulus, what kind of music and how it should be presented, and what kinds of non-musical stimuli you would want to include in the rehabilitation programme. One team has produced a video which also stresses the importance of conversation with the patient and the pairing of touch with the music during therapy, and family involvement. It includes charting examples, examples of responses, examples of musical stimuli, and examples for non-musical stimuli. Recent studies of the use of music therapy with coma patients are mentioned.

(Please refer to the links below).

Here is a quote from a patient's daughter, Andrea "My father whom I love dearly suffered a cardiac arrest. It's been 1 1/2 years. I spend 6 hrs everyday with him. I do a lot of coma stimulation techniques. He smiles at me, when I ask sometimes or if I show him how, it's like he'll mimic me. I don't know though if he knows I am his daughter for 37 yrs." However research shows us that it doesn't take a miracle for patients to come out of a coma and do well.

The section above was prepared by obtaining information from the following websites:

- [www.comarecovery.org/comaarousal.shtm](http://www.comarecovery.org/comaarousal.shtm)
- [www.comarecovery.org/infopack.shtm](http://www.comarecovery.org/infopack.shtm)
- [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list\\_uids=11178221&dopt=Abstract](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=11178221&dopt=Abstract)
- [www.uwec.edu/rasarla/research/litandgoals/Other/coma.htm](http://www.uwec.edu/rasarla/research/litandgoals/Other/coma.htm)
- [http://accessible.ninds.nih.gov/health\\_and\\_medical/disorders/coma\\_doc.htm](http://accessible.ninds.nih.gov/health_and_medical/disorders/coma_doc.htm)
- <http://www2.braintrauma.org/>

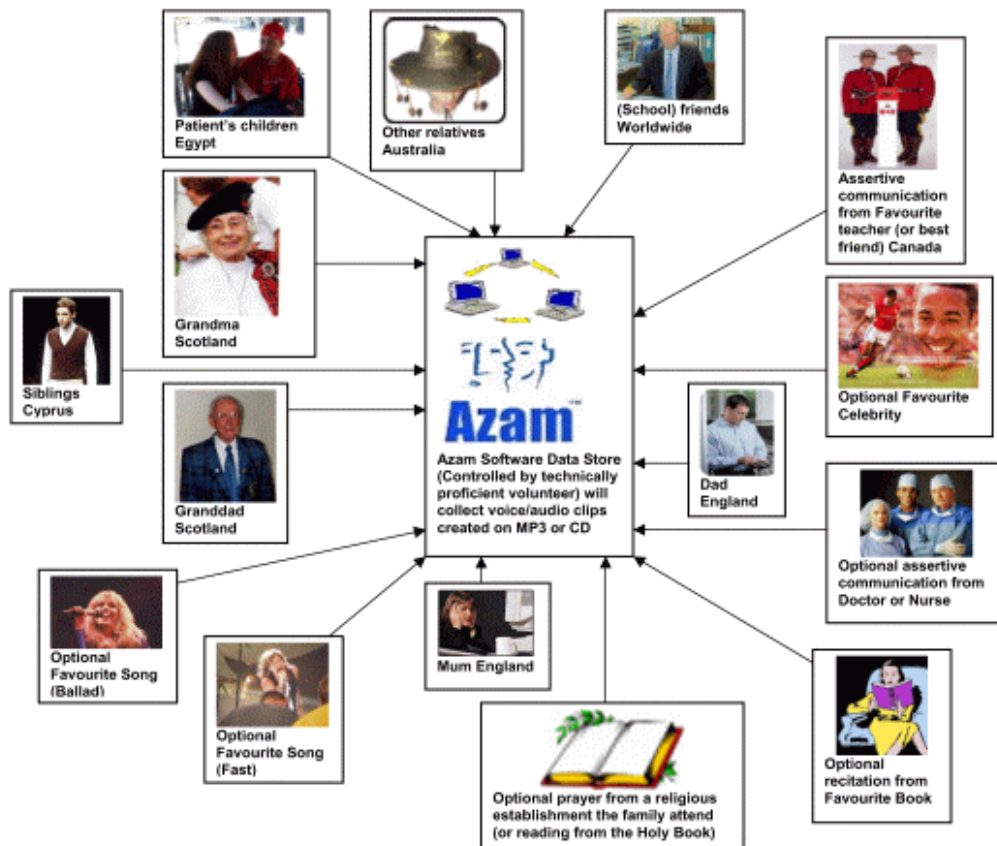
## Using Azam software for the task: Overview

**Azam** software can easily be used to record some of these stimulation techniques of musical and non-musical stimuli and repeatedly play them back to the patient. Azam can be used to mix the musical and non-musical messages. As stated in some of the recovery techniques it is often better to have several different types of messages and recordings. For example loud, soft, high pitch and in some cases slowed down or even speeded up.

This can be done using Azam voice filter functionality. Azam software is built with a set of unique morphing functions that far exceed the limits of most recording devices. Friends and relatives who know the patient's tastes can even monitor the patient's awareness, can create customized voice recordings and musical excerpts using Azam. These 'sound clips' can be filtered and recorded to perfection as a very simple exercise. As an example, let's assume one of the voice clips was emailed from the patient's grandmother. Using Azam, an ordinary 5 minute audio track could be produced, copied, morphed and merged into the final CD. Grandma's voice could then be heard normally, fast, slow, and/or with the other morphing effects such as with an echo or even backwards. By doing this, it could light a spark in the **deepest subconscious** of the patient. Please refer to the voice audio clip example we have produced on our website which can be played on most PCs that have MP3 or Wav capability.

We wish to emphasize that there is nothing stopping a family from producing a simple tape recording in a short space of time, using an ordinary tape recorder, nevertheless, it can be very cumbersome to **collect** and **merge** audio clips from several sources, some of whom may live some distance away from the hospital or the physical recording machine. Additionally, very few recording devices have the morphing capability of Azam software. Azam even allows voice clips to be recorded during a pre-planned phone conversation directly onto a PC. Patients who are in a coma, brain injured, traumatized or unconscious can be given various forms of audio stimulation to help bring them out of their state. We are here to provide some innovative, state of the art technology that may assist. View specific screenshots on our website.

**Diagram of voice and audio clips collected from different sources, emailed to a central Azam enabled PC that will create an MP3 CD to play back to the patient.**



## **Using Azam software for the task: Specific guidelines and suggestions**

- Identify a PC proficient family member or a friend who will volunteer to be the coordinator. At present Azam is only available in English.
- This individual should download Azam onto any compatible PC that has at least 100 Meg of free disk space and CD burner software.
- Using Azam, record a series of voice messages for the patient. A selection of the above audio clips can be morphed in addition to normal playback. The message could be a short or long reading from the patient's favorite book. You could record several messages for example from the patient's close family, best friends or even celebrities. These recordings can be created anywhere in the world and emailed to the coordinator. Azam will need to be downloaded onto other PCs, by participants who do not have access to Azam. (In the event that some participants do not have easy access to a PC, a tape recording message can be posted to the coordinator who will convert them into Azam recordings). Several such voice messages, reading recitals and music can then be merged using the Azam Studio Mixing function into one simple recording and a CD burned and played via an MP3 player to the patient.

- Each audio clip should last 3-7 minutes and be pre-planned and rehearsed.
- Each audio clip should contain reminders of recent and distant events in the life of the patient.
- When the final customized recording has been produced, Azam can convert the finished product into MP3 format (by cutting a CD) which can be played to the patient using a portable player and earphones.
- Some audio clips should be emotional but most should not.
- Subject to medical advice, it is recommended at least one hour of recordings are merged into one, using the above techniques.(Do not exceed 77 mins).
- There is nothing stopping the same message being repeated several times to fill the CD, which will allow playback to continue for hours on end. Nevertheless expert medical advice should be sought as some research has pointed out dangers of coma patients being given the same stimulus.
- Morphed recordings should not be played back to back, but interspersed with normal voice clips. At most, only 1 in 7 recordings should be played backwards.
- Burn at least 2 master CDs for hospital use and keep a master CD at home.
- The coordinator should create a version 1 of the CD using basic Azam functionality as soon as possible for the patient's use. A more complicated version using all available Azam functionality such as morphing can be produced later.

Azam's extensive online help screens and printable "Getting Started Manual" provide a wealth of technical information to undertake the above.

### **Suggested scripts:**

- Imagine the patient is at home and you are trying to wake them up from a deep sleep.
- Imagine you are reading a letter you have just written to the patient about events he or she is interested in relating to friends, family, school and sports.
- Start each audio clip with "Dear/Hello \_\_\_\_\_. This is \_\_\_\_\_ and I have a special message for you while you are asleep at \_\_\_\_\_ hospital.
- Remind the patient of favorite memories (holidays, sports events).
- How their favorite sports team is doing.
- If a reading from a holy book is chosen, it should be a positive section that is easily understandable. [View examples](#).
- End each audio clip with "I would like you to wake up now".
- Only a few audio clips should contain assertive communications. Only perceived authority figures such as a teacher or parent should record in this way, but always end the audio clip in a non-assertive/aggressive way.

The recordings you will create as a family will probably contain memories that are very private and personal relating to the patient's life. It may even be improper to divulge such close family matters to certain participants of the final CD such as friends,

teachers or workmates. Please respect the privacy of everyone concerned. If all goes well and a full recovery ensues, let the patient decide whether to allow external parties access to these special messages.

### **Example of a finished CD using basic Azam functionality (i.e. no music or morphing)**

Track 1 All merged audio voice clips from family and friends.

Track 2 (Optional) uplifting poem or music track.

### **Example of a finished CD using all available Azam functionality**

The maximum time should not exceed the capacity of 1 CD (approx 77 mins).

Track 1 Normal audio voice clips from four merged Azam recordings (closest family members).

Track 2 Favourite song (Ballad)

Track 3 Normal audio voice clips from four more merged Azam recordings (other family members).

Track 4 Favourite song (fast/loud)

Track 5 Remaining audio voice clips which have been merged into one Azam recording (friends etc).

Track 6 Morphed audio voice clips from 1 or 2 close family members.

Track 7 Rendition from uplifting non-religious book, poem, and/or a holy book of the patient's religious beliefs. View a list of specific readings, based on different religious Faiths. (A section for those not particularly religious is also included.)

## Using Azam software after the patient has recovered

Following recovery to full consciousness, some patients have short or medium term memory loss. Consider using Azam software to facilitate voice emails from friends and relatives who need to remind the patient of forgotten memories. Even face to face discussions and phone calls can be recorded using Azam so the patient can analyze what was said afterwards and hopefully prompt in the restoration of forgotten memories.

## For Doctors and Nursing Staff

A form has been produced offering suggestions and to enable the study to take place. Please download the 2 page PDF from here.

## Conclusion and disclaimers

Kindly note this whole section was written by Andronicos, inventor of Azam and Head of the Azam Disabilities Initiative. He is not a doctor. He would be very grateful for feedback, suggestions and results because it is imperative we know how you get on using Azam in this way so that other patients in similar positions can be helped. Please email [coma@azamit.com](mailto:coma@azamit.com). This is a high priority email address only for use by medical professionals.

A couple of disclaimers follow: This is a live research project, which should only be attempted with the **approval of a doctor**. Strictly speaking, copying copyright music for use in the manner described above should be with the permission of the record company concerned. Azam Version 2 is required for voice morphing.

As described at the start of this page, under the [Azam Disabilities Initiative](#) (ADI) hospital intensive care wards qualify for free use of Azam software in the treatment of brain injured or comatose patients. Family members of the patient may also download a copy of Azam free of charge for this purpose but are advised to seek medical supervision as described within this article. Hospitals should email [adi@azamit.com](mailto:adi@azamit.com) to request free software keys. To save on administration, family members are advised to [download Azam](#) and create the recordings they wish to use within the 30 day free trial period. This can be extended indefinitely by sending a request to the above email address. If you wish to use Azam in this way, please email [adi@azamit.com](mailto:adi@azamit.com) and let us know how you get on.

Finally, if you are reading this section because a friend or relative is in a coma or is suffering from a brain injury, we recognize this must be a very difficult time for all concerned. The whole Azam team wishes the patient all the best for a speedy recovery.

View specific screenshots relating to Azam for coma use.

Listen to audio examples, produced using Azam (converted to MP3 or Wav).

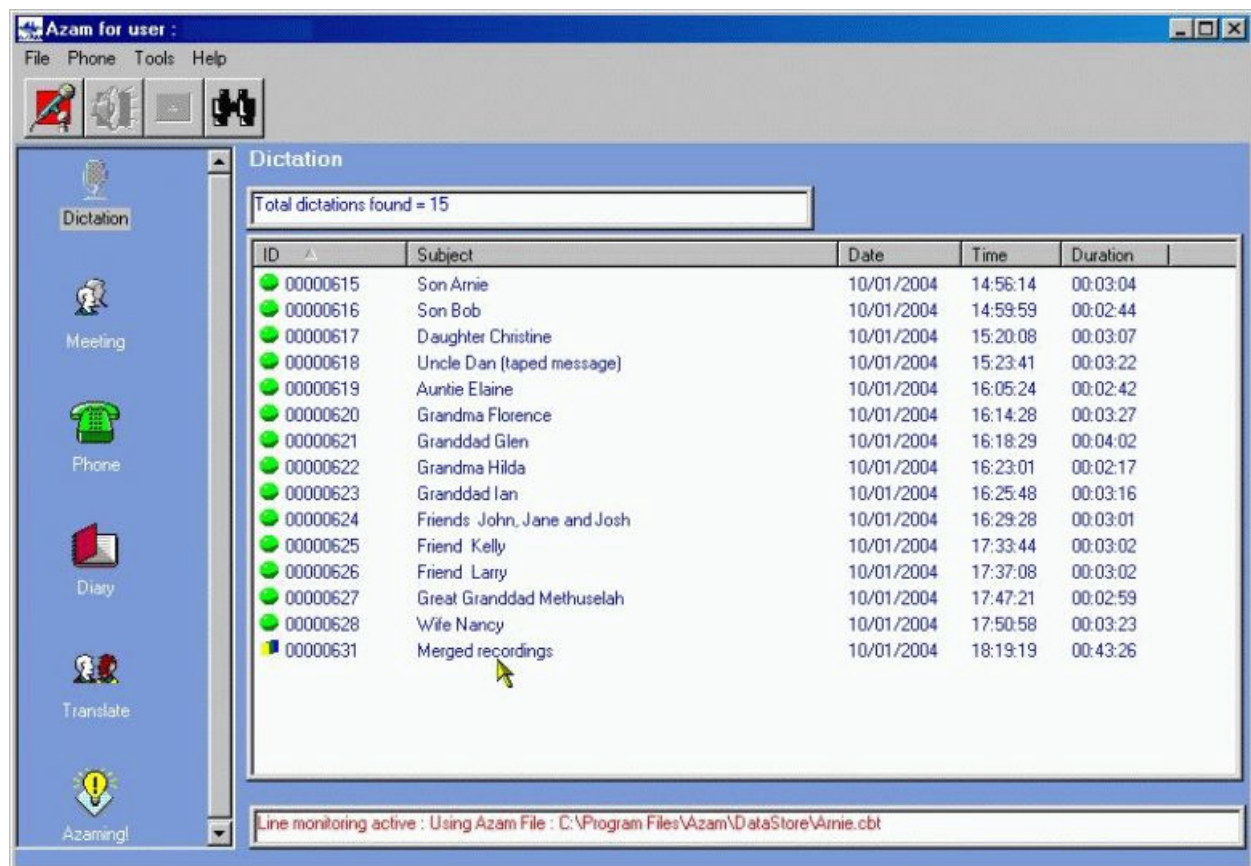
Download a copy of Azam software.

Print additional blank hospital test results forms.

Print a copy of the whole coma section in PDF format.

## Screenshot of collected voice clips using basic Azam software functionality

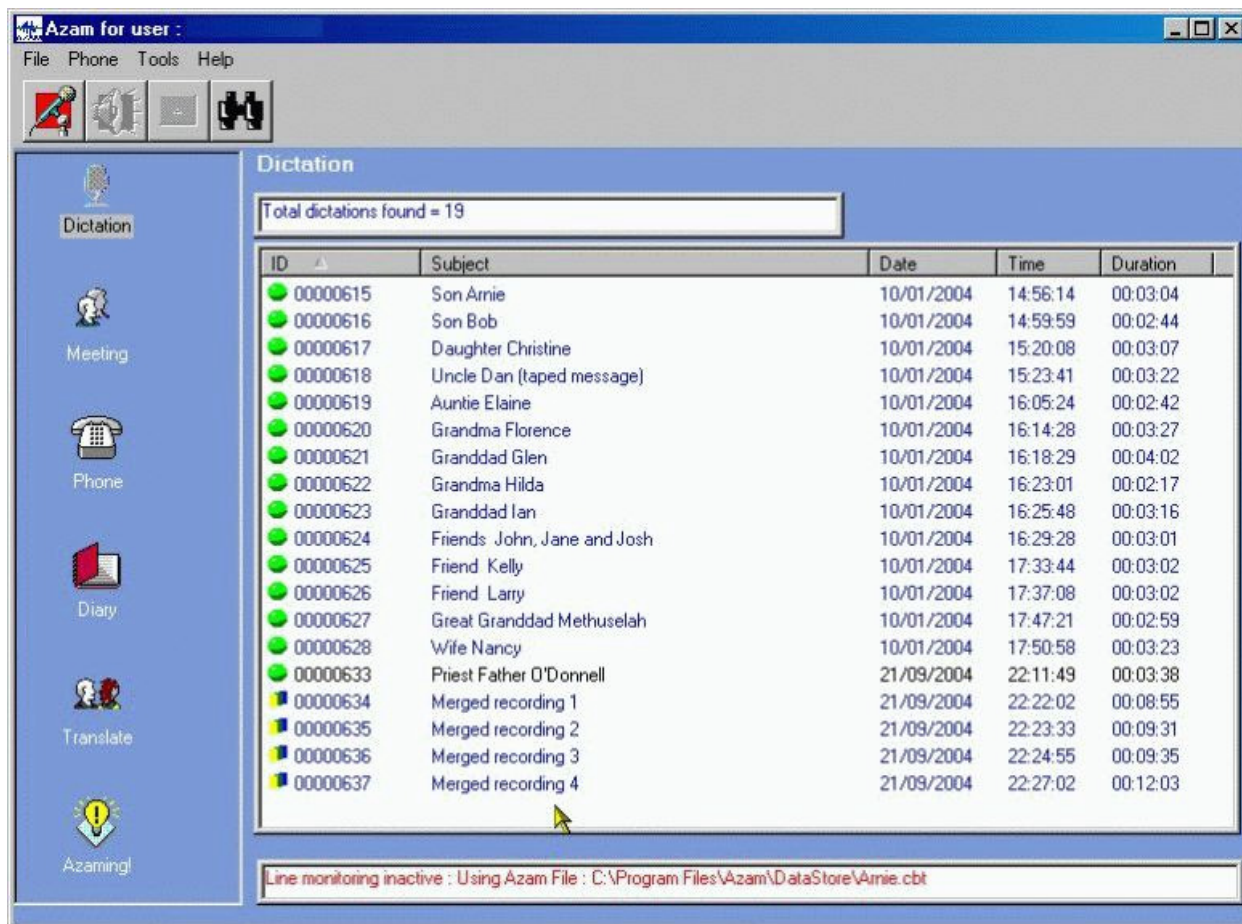
In the example below, Azam software has been used to collect voice clips from friends and relatives from around the world. No morphing or special effects are being used. They have all downloaded a copy of Azam onto their PCs and emailed a 3-7 minute recording to Arnie (the son of the patient). John, Jane and Josh decided to create one recording together. Uncle Dan did not have access to a PC so he recorded his message onto a normal magnetic tape and posted it to Arnie. Alternatively, Arnie could have used the Azam Phone Function to record Uncle Dan's message directly onto a PC as part of a pre-planned phone conversation. Arnie has copied Uncle Dan's tape into Azam and merged all of these recordings into one Azam record which can be seen at the end of the list. When this merged recording has been produced, Arnie will export it as track 1 of a CD he will burn using the Nero software product. The patient is quite a fan of Celine Dion, so Arnie will download a music track (Azam is not used to do this) and he will create track 2 on the CD he will burn. The finished 2 track CD and an MP3 player will be taken to the hospital.



## Screenshot of collected voice clips using advanced Azam software functionality

In the example below, Azam software has been used to collect voice clips from friends and relatives from around the world as described in the first example above. Some morphing and special effects are being used. Arnie has created four merged recordings. He will export them as 4 tracks on a CD he will burn using the Nero software product. He has decided to follow the recommendations as presented on the [www.azamit.com](http://www.azamit.com)

[coma page](#) and produce a 7 track CD as shown below (after the Azam screenshot). The finished 7 track CD and an MP3 player will be taken to the hospital.



**When the finished 7 Track CD has been created, based on the above recordings, it will contain:**

Track 1 Normal audio voice clips from four merged Azam recordings (closest family members).

Track 2 Favourite song (A ballad, for example, from Celine Dion).

Track 3 Normal audio voice clips from four more merged Azam recordings (other family members).

Track 4 Favourite song (A fast and loud song, for example, from Madonna).

Track 5 Remaining audio voice clips which have been merged into one Azam recording (friends etc).

Track 6 Morphed audio voice clips from 1 or 2 close family members.

Track 7 Rendition from uplifting holy book of the patient's religious beliefs. The patient is a practising Catholic, so it is decided that Father O'Donnell, who is also a friend of the family, will read 5 minutes from the Bible. **(If you would like suggestions on what to read to a patient based on their particular Faith, please refer [here](#)).**

## Optional recitals from religious texts and observing religious customs during medical treatment

Azam software is a tool to enable the creation of customized audio voice recordings to enable friends and family to produce stimulation to comatose, brain injured, traumatized and unconscious patients. Under the [Azam Disabilities Initiative](#) (ADI), Azam software will be provided **free of charge** for this purpose.

If the patient and family are religious, excerpts from various religious texts have been prepared below as uplifting material to assist in the creation of Azam voice audio clips. Also included are general guidelines for use by friends, non adherent family members and medical staff, in relation to religious specific customs during medical treatment.

Some of the information below has been taken from the booklet 'Religions and Cultures: Guide to Beliefs and Customs for Health Staff and Social Care Services', by Dr Moussa Jogee MBE, JP and Mrs Sarj Lai JP. They are presented in alphabetical order and will have appropriate links as soon as possible.

Not particularly religious? A thought provoking poem relating to World Peace, which can be used by anyone (religious, spiritual or atheist). Juan Carlos Calderon, the Spanish composer who has written songs for Ricky Martin, Louis Miguel and others, has very kindly agreed to allow the use of the music to his hit beautiful number one song 'Amarte es un placer' for use in the Azam coma initiative. The lyrics to 'The Ancient Song of the Human Race' were written by [Andronicos](#) as part of one of his other projects. It has been included here because it is not often easy to get **legal copies** of downloadable music from the internet. [Download and play for coma patient use](#) (WMA format).  
Alternative [MP3 format](#).

Bahá'í Faith	( <a href="#">Various Sacred Writings</a> ) ( <a href="#">Suggestions relating to observing Bahá'í customs during medical treatment</a> )
Buddhist Faith	( <a href="#">Suggestions relating to observing Buddhist customs during medical treatment</a> )
Chinese Culture	( <a href="#">Suggestions relating to observing Chinese customs during medical treatment</a> )
Christian Faith	( <a href="#">Old and New Testament</a> )
Hindu Faith	(Bhagavad Gita) ( <a href="#">Suggestions relating to observing Hindu customs during medical treatment</a> )
Islamic Faith	(The Quoran) ( <a href="#">Suggestions relating to observing Muslim customs during medical treatment</a> )
Jewish Faith	( <a href="#">Old Testament</a> ) ( <a href="#">Suggestions relating to observing Jewish customs during medical treatment</a> )

Mormon Faith (Book of Mormon)  
([Suggestions relating to observing Mormon customs during medical treatment](#))

Sikh Faith (The Granth Sahib)  
([Suggestions relating to observing Sikh customs during medical treatment](#))

If you would like to suggest materials from other Faith's holy books, kindly email suggestions to [suggest@azamit.com](mailto:suggest@azamit.com)

Please note: the suggestions relating to observing religious customs during medical treatment have been included 'in all good faith'. Religions have been listed generically (eg Christian) and unless otherwise stated have not been broken down into specific faiths (eg, Baptist, Methodist etc). Some suggestions have come from local religious leaders and may not reflect interpretations in other geographic or cultural regions. Opinions and guidelines can also change based on new or alternative local or international interpretations. It is therefore prudent to check with close family members, or the patient's local religious community before making the assumption that he or she adheres to specific religious customs or rites. Doing so will at best, save embarrassment and at worst, avoid offence.

## **For Doctors and Nursing Staff**

The form below has been produced to enable medical staff and the patients' families to take part in the research project. Feedback and test results will be invaluable. Please use one form per patient per duration of treatment where Azam is being used. It is up to you whether you send interim test results or batch them together. It is estimated that each time the form will be used, will take no more than 5 minutes. If part of the form is hand written by a doctor, please ask them to do so neatly as we are not pharmacists!

**Most of the information can be filled in by the family who have produced the Azam CD**

## Confidential feed back form for the Azam Software Audio Stimulation Coma Study

Hospital:		Test subject number:
Age of patient:		Sex of patient:
<b>How often was Azam used?</b>		
Hours per day:		Number of days so far:
Total length of the CD in minutes:		
<b>Did the CD contain?</b>		<b>What % and length of the total time?</b>
Assertive communication(s)	Y/N	
Loud music	Y/N	
Soft music	Y/N	
Morphing backwards	Y/N	
Morphing slow	Y/N	
Morphing fast	Y/N	
Morphing echo	Y/N	
Morphing pitch	Y/N	
Do you feel that the patient improved (or was effected in any way) by the use of specific types of audio stimulation as described above? (Y/N)		
If so, how?		
<b>The information below is for doctors or senior nursing staff to complete.</b>		
Glasgow Scale (or equivalent):		How long in coma?
Other Medical Observations:		

Name of Doctor (or Senior Nurse): .....

Phone: ..... Fax: .....

Email id: .....

Please fax to + 44 (0) 1494 449444 or email [comastats@azamit.com](mailto:comastats@azamit.com)

**For Azam International Technologies and statisticians' use. Reference:**

## **A Press interview relating to the use of Azam software for Comatose, brain injured and unconscious patients**

- **Who are you and what is your role?**

My name is Andronicos I had the initial idea for Azam and many of its functions. I am also the author of many of the hints and tips you can read in the online help screens. My current role is to head the Azam Disabilities Initiative (ADI).

My brief resume can be read on [www.azamit.com](http://www.azamit.com)

- **How would you summarize Azam?**

Azam is a piece of software that allows you to record voice directly into your PC. Alternatively, you can record into your PC via your telephone, most audio output devices such as tape recorders, etc., or importing from other Azam systems. Any form of talk is captured; be they messages, dictations, discussions or meetings. You can edit, save, store and send these recordings on line, via email to one or many people. Azam simply replaces text with your talk. It can even translate into other languages, and optionally 'speak' to you in one of several accents.

- **Is Azam International Technologies a charity?**

No. It is a privately owned corporation that exists to make a profit, nevertheless, substantial resource has and is being used to provide free download copies, technical support and future upgrades of Azam to people with disabilities via registered charities and local authorities. The Azam Foundation is being set up to undertake such matters. This will be a registered charity. In the meantime, the Azam Disabilities Initiative (ADI), which was launched in the spring of 2003, has helped many many people with disabilities. Several registered charities and local authorities have been assisting, by informing or taking part in the free distribution of Azam software to their clients. We have now launched the free use of Azam for medical use as described below.

- **How can Azam software help coma patients?**

Patients who are in a coma, brain injured, traumatized or unconscious are often given various forms of stimulation to help bring them out of their state. Azam enables **customized** audio recordings to be produced onto a CD by family and friends who may be living all over the world, so that the patient can 'listen' to them with headphones via an ordinary portable MP3 or CD player. Azam also enables voice clips to be morphed so that, as an example, Grandma's voice can be heard with special effects. These effects include echo, fast, slow and backwards playback, designed to provide unusual audio stimulation for the patient. Ordinary tape recorders cannot do this. **We wish to make it clear that this is a research project and not a miracle cure. Indeed, there are certain medical conditions, for example after brain surgery, that renders audio stimulation totally ineffective.**

- **Will hospitals be producing the recordings?**

Hospitals will not be asked to produce the recordings or finished CDs, this will be up to the patient's family, who will be provided with Azam software free of charge and

technical support, under the auspices of the Azam Disabilities Initiative (ADI) scheme. All we ask from hospitals is to inform the families of unwell patients about Azam, ensure exposure to playback is not continuous and to provide test results.

- **What are the other medical uses of Azam software?**

In the event that a patient recovers consciousness but has memory loss, Azam can also be used over a period of time to facilitate memory salvaging and reminders of past events. Family and friends can email Azam voice clip attachments from around the world to the patient's PC.

- **Is Azam easy to use?**

Yes. You do not have to be a brain surgeon to use Azam.

- **How can the press help?**

Please tell as many of your readers, viewers or listeners as possible at the earliest opportunity. At best, it will help patients; at worst it will help families get closer together by helping personally in the treatment of their loved one at a very difficult time. Please let everyone know as soon as possible. We do ask that you emphasize that this technology is experimental and it is not a miracle cure. Furthermore, as stated above, we do not wish to give false hope to families of patients who are in deep comas for physical medical reasons such as following brain surgery.

For a general press interview please refer to the press section of this website

For information relating to the Azam Disabilities Initiative (ADI), refer to the ADI section.

For general information, screenshots and other matters relating to the use of Azam software for comatose, brain injured and unconscious patients, please view our in-depth section here.

## Contributions to assist in the research and global launch of the Azam Disabilities Initiative

If you have purchased copies of Azam, you have also contributed to the Azam Disabilities Initiative (ADI) and we **very much** thank you for doing so!

ADI was created to give people with disabilities easier access to technologies such as email and to help the unwell. The initiative is funded directly by Azam International Technologies from commercial sales of the Azam software product and the company's owners. Developers and staff continue to give freely of their time to ensure the success of ADI, especially since feedback from recipients has been so positive. A registered charity is being set up for all ADI related matters.

We can see a number of areas where we could extend product functionality to better meet the needs of the disabled and the unwell. As well as this, we would like to extend ADI beyond the UK to disabled persons everywhere. In order to achieve this aim, we need your help. We require urgent funding for the following projects:

- To enhance Azam for general use by people with disabilities with specific functionality based on the type of disability.
- To research the use of Azam in providing audio stimulation for comatose and brain injured patients.
- To distribute free Azam software to hospital children's wards minimally in English-speaking countries.
- To provide national language Azam software support, for use by the disabled worldwide that do not speak English.

Why not consider business use, or **recommend Azam** to your company, hospital or institution so that it can acquire a site licence? As shown throughout this website, Azam can enable every organization to save time and money. And the money we receive, even from one off sales of Azam, to your friends and relatives, helps to fund this valuable initiative.

Hospital grants and corporate donations are very much welcome.

Information on corporate sponsorship is available on request.

**Influential Trustees** for the planned **Azam Foundation** (registered charity) are needed.

If Azam has helped you or your family and you can afford to do so, please contact us to discuss how you can contribute to these projects, so that we can help others.

As stated at the beginning of this page, if you have purchased copies of Azam, you have also contributed to the Azam Disabilities Initiative (ADI) and we very much **thank you** for doing so!