Welcome to the 2018 Evidence-Based Practice Conference

The School of Occupational Therapy extends a warm welcome to our participants and guests of the 2018 Evidence-Based Practice Conference.

We have hosted the Barbara Sexton Lectureship since 1999 during which time we have had a variety of distinguished speakers provide thought-provoking and action-oriented talks, which have inspired our students, faculty, staff and the Western community. We are delighted to present Cathy Vandersluis, MSc, OT Reg (ONT) as the 2018 Barbara Sexton Lecturer, who will provide a talk on how using the approach of an occupational therapist has served her well in her role as Vice-President of London Health Sciences Centre and in everyday life.

At the completion of the Barbara Sexton Lecture, the Evidence-Based Practice poster session will allow our second year MScOT students to share their exciting and innovative research projects. Their topics represent the diversity of the Occupational Therapy profession, with client populations across the lifespan.

A number of our students' research projects have been submitted or accepted for presentation at the 2018 Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) conference (Vancouver, BC). Moreover, a number of student groups have submitted or plan to submit their work for peer reviewed publication. This displays the quality, diversity, and ingenuity of the work undertaken by our students and their respective project supervisors. We are very proud of their hard work and accomplishments. Congratulations!

On behalf of the School of Occupational Therapy, we thank you for sharing in our celebration of scholarship.

Dr. Jeffrey Holmes  
Course Coordinator, OT 9695

Dr. Trish Tucker  
Course Coordinator, OT 9695

Dr. Angie Mandich  
Director, School of Occupational Therapy
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to express our appreciation for the expertise, enthusiasm, and time so generously dedicated by each of the project supervisors and co-supervisors. The quality and diversity of the student research projects would not have been achieved without this ongoing guidance and support.

These research projects are based on the foundational research knowledge these students ascertained throughout the curriculum. Therefore, we would be remised to not acknowledge Dr. Debbie Laliberte Rudman who taught the Foundations of Research (OT 9541) course, Dr. Colleen McGrath who taught the Evidence-Informed Practice (OT 9595) course, and Marisa Tippett, the subject librarian for occupational therapy, who assisted students with database searching.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the following Year I MScOT students who volunteered their time to help ensure the research day ran smoothly and was a success: Ruth McLean and Mikaela Dunn-Robinson.

Finally, the School of Occupational Therapy would like to thank Lisa Ouellette whose support contributed to the success of the 2018 Evidence-Based Practice Conference.

With thanks,

Dr. Jeffrey Holmes & Dr. Trish Tucker
Co-Chairs and Course Coordinators
Evidence-Based Practice Conference
School of Occupational Therapy

Elborn College
Western University · Canada

Agenda – April 13, 2018

8:30-9:00  Registration & Coffee  Room 1534
9:00-9:20  Welcome & Award Presentations  Room 1330
9:20-10:20  Barbara Sexton Lecture  Room 1330
10:30-11:45  Poster Session  Room 1300
11:45-12:00  Closing Remarks  Room 1300
THE BARBARA SEXTON LECTURESHIP

The School of Occupational Therapy at Western University annually invites a distinguished visitor to give a public presentation for the Barbara Sexton Lectureship at the Evidence-Based Practice Conference. The Barbara Sexton Lectureship was established in 1999 to reward innovation and excellence in occupational therapy teaching and to foster professional enrichment.

Professor Sexton dedicated her career to the profession of Occupational Therapy and its advancement, both nationally and internationally. Following a successful career as a clinician, Professor Sexton joined the faculty at Western in 1973, just one year after the inception of the School. Thus, she was involved in the education of every graduate in Occupational Therapy from Western prior to her retirement in 1995. Barbara’s specialty was mental health with an emphasis on interviewing and small groups. She worked hard to ensure that every graduate of this program was not only educated in the relevant theories of the discipline, but also in the clinical skills required in the day-to-day practice of the profession. During her tenure at Western, Professor Sexton served in many capacities and on many committees, both internal and external to the University. Most notably, she was the Assistant Dean in the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences from 1990 to 1994. She served as a member of the Review Board of the Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy for nine years. She was actively involved with the World Federation of Occupational Therapists for 12 years, serving as an executive of the Federation for eight years. While functioning in this role, she served not only the World Federation, but also acted as an ambassador for Canadian Occupational Therapy. The University awarded her the status of Professor Emeritus in 1995. Professor Sexton had numerous publications in professional journals, made numerous presentations at scientific and professional meetings, and is the author of the widely used textbook, “Small Groups in Therapy Settings: Process and Leadership” which is in its fourth edition. Professor Sexton received the Life Member Award from the Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists and the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists, and was an Honorary Fellow of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists. All of these honors recognize her major contribution to these Societies and to Occupational Therapists in general. Professor Sexton’s academic career was marked by dedication to the profession, to the University, and most notably to her students.
Cathy Vandersluis, MSc OT Reg (ONT)
Vice President – Surgical Services, Cardiac Care, Neurosciences and CSTAR
London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC)

Cathy Vandersluis graduated from Western’s Occupational Therapy program in 1985 and earned her master’s degree in 2005. Cathy worked as a frontline occupational therapist (OT) in hand therapy until 2001 when she made the difficult decision to leave clinical practice to become Manager, Occupational Therapy Practice. Since that time, she has worked in various Directorship roles within LHSC, including Infection Safety, Clinical Neurological Sciences and leading the Mental Health program. Cathy also served a four-year tenure as President of the Board of Directors for the Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists. Cathy has enjoyed a three-decade long career in teaching for Western’s School of Occupational Therapy. Cathy estimates she has had the pleasure of instructing over 1200 Occupational Therapy students, teaching them the art and science of splinting and working in acute care practice. Cathy is a three-time recipient of the School of Occupational Therapy Excellence in Teaching Award. In all of her roles, Cathy consistently achieves success in using an OT approach to problem-solving, planning and teamwork.
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Background and Purpose:
The availability of occupational therapy (OT) in primary care settings where children and youth experiencing mental health issues may be identified earlier, allows for more timely interventions with occupational therapists’ specialized approach to rehabilitation. The purpose of this study was to highlight the current role of OT in primary mental health care for children and youth, and identify opportunity for OT presence and awareness in this practice area. A scoping review and environmental scan (ES) were conducted concurrently to determine the role of and access to OT services in child and youth mental health care within Southwestern Ontario.

Methods:
A scoping review was conducted using five databases (PubMed, SCOPUS, CINAHL, PsycINFO, EMBASE). Search terms included variations of “child and youth,” “mental health,” “primary care,” and “occupational therapy.” An initial search yielded 2,149 articles. Studies were included if the following criteria were met: English language; a focus on mental health, primary care, children and youth, occupational therapy/therapists; and peer reviewed. Grey literature and articles published outside the last 20 years were excluded. 120 articles were reviewed in entirety; seven articles met relevance for inclusion.

An ES of Southwestern Ontario, geographically defined by the Local Integrated Health Network (LHIN), was conducted using a modified five-step process developed by Costa (1995). The five steps include: specifying information needs, specifying information sources and identifying participants, assigning scanning tasks, storage of information, analysis of information, and dissemination of information. Relevant organizations were identified using the following sources: Southwest Health Line, Government of Ontario Community Health, Children’s Mental Health Ontario, Moving on Mental Health, and Google search engine. Organizations included in the scan met the following criteria: the organization provided mental health services to children and youth zero - 21 years of age and existed within a primary care model. A total of 89 sites were contacted to explore access to OT treatment specific to mental health.

Findings:
The findings of the scoping review highlight the diverse involvement of occupational therapists providing services to children and youth within primary mental health care. Thamatic analysis revealed that the occupational therapists’ role includes involvement in screening and assessment, wide ranging treatments, the involvement of clients’ families in intervention and treatment, and the vast array of models of practice and knowledge acquisition methods informing treatment in this setting. Quantitative analysis indicated that 3.7% (3/89) of agencies providing mental healthcare in Southwestern Ontario, offer OT services to children and youth under a primary care service delivery model.

Implications:
It is clear that current allocation of OT services in Southwestern Ontario are not being implemented consistent with evidence supporting the breadth of the OT scope. Findings of the current study may avail for advocacy purpose, highlighting the usefulness of OT in providing early intervention rehabilitative services to children and youth. Scoping review limitations included the exclusion of articles that were not peer-reviewed, written in English, or published in Canada. Articles that did not explicitly define primary care were also excluded, limiting the number of articles. ES limitations are as follow: a limited catchment area and two unresponsive organizations. Future studies may include incorporation of grey literature, abate exclusions based on the primary care definition, and focus soley on research within a Canadian context. Secondly, it would be beneficial to increase the size of the catchment area in order to determine if the findings of this ES apply to other geographical areas. Due to the nature of this study, the depth of information achieved through the ES was limited. Future studies could obtain ethics approval to further the extent of data collection.
Current Role and Presence of Occupational Therapists in Youth Correctional Services: A Scoping Review and Environmental Scan

Poster #2

Tavia Bond, Allison Breadner, Alisha Johnson, Munema Moiz, Megan Reddick, & Professor Donna Dennis

Background:
In 2003, the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) was passed, providing the legislative framework to transition from a punishment-based approach to a rehabilitative approach, with respect to youth correctional services. Occupational therapy (OT) is a rehabilitative profession well suited to work in youth corrections services and facilitate reintegration into the community.

Purpose:
The aim of this study was to identify the current role and presence of OT in youth correctional services. Part one of the study was a scoping review that examined the current role of OT in correctional services available to youth offenders. Part two was an environmental scan that examined the presence of OT services currently available for youth offenders in Southwestern and Central Ontario.

Methods:
Part one followed the methodological framework proposed by Arksey and O'Malley. The database search included CINAHL, PubMed, EMBASE, PsycINFO, SCOPUS, Sociological Abstracts, Social Work Abstracts, and Social Services Abstracts. Search terms included correctional services, occupational therapy, youth. The inclusion criteria was peer-reviewed English literature published within the last twenty years. The initial search produced 1069 articles, seven of which were included in the final review. Researchers collated the data and identified qualitative and quantitative themes through tables, charts, and mind mapping. Part two was organized by the Strategic Information Scanning System procedure by David Aaker. 1) Information needs were identified in Southwestern and Central Ontario; 2) Information sources were identified as community and ministry organizations servicing youth offenders; 3) Receptionists, secretaries, directors, and human resource managers were identified as participants; 4) Scanning tasks were assigned for community and ministry organizations; 5) Information was stored in an excel database; 6) The information was disseminated in the results and discussion of this article.

Findings:
Part one included seven studies from 2000 to 2016. The articles included: primary research (n=3) and literature in the form of magazine article (n=3) or editorial (n=1). The OT service models most commonly adopted were direct (n=3), research not involving intervention (n=2), and research involving intervention (n=1). The role of OT in youth corrections services fell into two overarching themes, researcher and clinician. Researcher subthemes included: present occupations of youth offenders, intervention strategies, and challenges. Clinician subthemes included: acquisition of life skills, building interpersonal relationships, and developing self-identity. In part two, 118 community and four Ministry-run organizations were included as complete data. Three community organizations reported OT presence within their organization and of these, none reported OT services available for youth offenders. No Ministry-run organizations had OT presence.

Implications:
This study illuminated the gap in both the current role and presence of OT services in youth corrections. The results highlighted the potential role for OT to positively facilitate youth offender’s rehabilitation in accordance with the YCJA, however, warrants more research evaluating the effectiveness of OT intervention. Despite the limited evidence identified in the scoping review and small sample presented in the environmental scan, this study can be used to advocate for the role of OT in this field, and may urge organizations to consider the inclusion of OT in the rehabilitation of this demographic.
Fieldwork Placements in Developing Countries for Occupational Therapy Students: A Scoping Review

Poster #3

Leslie Hopkins, Kimberley Li, Kate Moberg, Hanne Roelen, Emily Tobali, & Dr. Michael Ravenek

Background: Fieldwork placements are integral to the curricula in Occupational Therapy (OT), as they provide valuable learning opportunities across various settings. Their significance is reinforced through increasing global citizenship and enrolment of students in healthcare programs with fieldwork placement requirements, which in turn has led to a shortage of fieldwork placements in Canada. Fieldwork placements in developing countries may serve as a solution to provide additional opportunities to facilitate practical learning.

Purpose: The primary purpose of this review was to gain an understanding of the literature surrounding OT fieldwork placements in developing countries, and the implications for the students, communities, and universities involved.

Methods: A scoping review was completed, which yielded 19 articles. Five databases: Pubmed, PsycINFO, Scopus, CINAHL, and ProQuest Dissertations and Theses were searched. The following key search terms and their derivatives were used in generating the database search: placement, Occupational Therapy, and developing country. Six OT journals, five conference proceedings, and the WFOT Bulletin were hand-searched. Once articles were identified to be included in the review, citation tracking was completed. Articles were excluded if they examined students solely of other healthcare fields, examined OT students going on international placements, but not specifically in developing countries, or were published in languages other than English. Lastly, expert consultation was done with five members of the International Fieldwork Committee. Demographic results were gathered and thematic analysis was performed to examine data from the articles included.

Findings: The analysis revealed a total of 20 sub-themes demonstrating the important implications for all stakeholders. Articles included in this review were published between 2000 and 2017. Demographic results revealed the number of students participating in fieldwork placements in developing countries ranged from one to 23, the duration of fieldwork placements ranged from four to eight weeks, the country where most fieldwork placements were offered was India, the academic institution offering the largest number of fieldwork placements in developing countries was the University of Toronto, and the most common fieldwork placement setting was rehabilitation centres. The thematic analysis identified more advantages than challenges for stakeholders. Students gained valuable professional skills, and communities and universities were able to develop a global network of healthcare.

Implications: Fieldwork placements in developing countries provide unique opportunities for students due to limited resources, language barriers, and cultural differences. These challenges enable students participating in these fieldwork placements to gain personal and professional competencies. Collaborative learning, opportunities for respect between countries, and the implementation of sustainable interventions were all aspects of fieldwork placements that benefited the host communities. In line with the trend of internationalization in OT, the findings of this review suggest that fieldwork placements in developing countries may provide a solution for the current fieldwork placement shortage in Canada. Future research should focus not only on students, but also on fieldwork placement supervisors and clients to provide a more holistic and in-depth view of fieldwork placements in developing countries. Limitations of the study include limited access to conference proceedings, and the exclusion of publications in languages other than English.
Current Fieldwork Preceptor Challenges in Occupational Therapy:  
A Scoping Review  
Poster #4  
Katrina Martin, Melissa Ververs, Justin Desroches, Karol Nega, Dylan Menezes,  
& Dr. Michael Ravenek  

**Background:** Fieldwork placements are essential to Occupational Therapy (OT) education, yet there is a current paucity of research on supervisory challenges OT preceptors may be encountering.

**Purpose:** In response to the evolving healthcare climate, changes in the worldwide education standards, and efforts to improve the quality of fieldwork education, OT preceptors may be experiencing new challenges in the supervision of OT students. This scoping review sought to develop an understanding of the current literature in this area and where additional research is needed.

**Methods:** An extensive literature search was carried out using electronic databases, hand-searching of targeted peer-reviewed and non peer-reviewed journals, conference proceedings, and citation tracking. Five electronic databases were searched, including CINAHL, EMBASE, PsycINFO, PubMed and Scopus. Peer-reviewed journals that were searched included CJOT, AJOT, BJOT, AOTJ, WFOTB, and SJOT. Non peer-reviewed journals included OT Now and the OT Practice Magazine. Conference websites included those from: CAOT, BAOT, AOTA and OTAUS, which were searched to find abstracts in the conference proceedings related to this review’s objective. Citation tracking was used after the articles included in this review were identified, in order to search for additional articles relevant to this review. The search terms included: challenges, placement, preceptors and OT. Inclusion criteria incorporated results with a focus on challenges faced by preceptors, a focus on OT placement experiences and literature published from January 2002 to April 2017. Articles were excluded if they were in a language other than English, examined challenges faced by students or if they combined data across multiple professions. A total of 16 articles met the inclusion criteria and were reviewed. Descriptive and thematic analyses were conducted to organize data and develop key themes related to supervisory challenges.

**Findings:** Supervisory challenge themes were organized into categories. The first and most broad category, was the general challenges category (student preparation/performance, facility resource/constraints, preceptor preparation, poor communication, learning styles, legal and ethical issues and patient care). This category did not specify supervisory styles. However, more specific categories were also discussed and related to challenges encountered with the 2:1 supervision model (management of students, facility resource/constraints, patient care), the role emerging supervision model (accountability, liability and appropriate level of supervision), first time supervision (fears of problematic students, managing multiple students, patient care and increased caseload), and the multiple mentor supervision model (facility resource/constraints, evaluation difficulty, communication between student and preceptors, stress/adjusting to style and less control over caseload).

**Implications:** Findings of this review indicate that stakeholders of the fieldwork process would benefit from improved communication. The themes of this review highlight common challenges experienced in OT practice settings but also support the need for additional research with specific supervision models and less common settings. Developing a greater, contextualized understanding of these could support initiatives/strategies aimed at supporting OT preceptors at the university, policy and institutional level. Limitations of this study include the boundless nature of grey literature, the inability to access specific conference proceedings and unspecified year of supervision and level of OT students in certain articles.
Impact of Hand Therapy on Occupational Performance in Clients with Hypersensitivity: A Protocol
Poster #5

Dan Allely, Charlotte Carlaw, Amanda Gouweloos, Dan Moreau, Tori Swick-Blake, & Dr. Jeffrey Holmes

Background:
Literature demonstrates that occupational performance can be negatively impacted by pain perception due to hypersensitivity in the hand. Occupational performance can be improved by participating in hand therapy. Hand therapists use topical anaesthetics, such as EMLA cream, to decrease pain perception. However, there is currently minimal literature available to support the use of EMLA cream and its ability to improve tolerance of hand therapy or evidence to show that hand therapy improves occupational performance in clients who present with hypersensitivity.

Purpose:
The purpose of this study protocol is to test if participating in hand therapy increases occupational performance for individuals with hypersensitivity. Furthermore, this study protocol includes testing the effectiveness of EMLA cream as an intervention to decrease the perception of pain in hand therapy clients who present with hypersensitivity, and to determine if EMLA cream increases the ability to participate in hand therapy.

Methods:
This protocol will include a longitudinal prospective repeated measures design with 100 participants who are current hand therapy clients presenting with hypersensitivity. Eight therapy sessions will be conducted over eight weeks, with a one-hour session occurring each week. The outcome measures that will be used during the study will include the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (COPM); Disabilities of the Arm, Shoulder and Hand (DASH); Downey Hand Centre Hand Sensitivity Test (DHCHST); Pressure Algometer; and the Short-Form McGill Pain Questionnaire. The COPM and DASH will be used to measure occupational performance, and the DHCHST, Pressure Algometer, and Short-Form McGill Pain Questionnaire will measure pain perception. The participants will complete the COPM and DASH in the first and last session, and these will be compared. The participants will complete the Short-Form McGill Pain Questionnaire, then a Pressure Algometer and standardized DHCHST will be applied to the hypersensitive area in the second session before and after the application of the EMLA cream and the hand therapy session, and this will be repeated in the last session; again, both will be comparatively analyzed. All eight sessions will be timed, to measure the client’s tolerance to participating in the session, and these will also be compared at the end of the study.

Implications:
Results of this study would be relevant to the fields of occupational therapy and hand therapy. Evidence demonstrating how hand therapy is able to increase an individual's occupational performance is needed. Positive results from this study would support the use of EMLA cream in hand therapy clinics. If found effective in improving tolerance to hand therapy sessions, EMLA cream could reduce the number of sessions required before returning to higher levels of functioning, which could reduce treatment cost. This protocol may draw attention to the need of a hypersensitivity treatment protocol, which may also improve the function of clients with hypersensitivity, as well as reduce wait times. The use of EMLA cream in conjunction with hand therapy can enable clients with hypersensitivity to engage in meaningful occupations. This study can be used in establishing a standardized protocol for treating clients presenting with hypersensitivity.
Exploring Person-Environment Transactions between Older Adults and Community Mobility
Poster #6

Shannon Coffey, Brennan DeMelo, Carmen Lam, Megan Roussel, Giuseppina Siciliano, & Dr. Carri Hand

Background:
Community mobility, or navigating through the community via various modes of transportation (e.g. walking, driving, public transit), is important for fostering older adults’ engagement and participation in their communities. As Canada’s aging population increases, it is essential to understand the barriers and facilitators that impact community mobility and older adults’ ability to ‘age in place’. There is an essential need for research to use comprehensive methods, such as qualitative and geospatial methods, to gain a deeper understanding of community mobility, as well as the complex transaction between older adults and their environments.

Purpose:
The present study investigated how the transactional relationship between older adults and their neighbourhoods informed various methods, strategies, and meanings they ascribed to their community mobility experiences in the places where they lived, and discovered facilitators and barriers that influence them both on a personal and environmental level.

Methods:
Researchers conducted a secondary analysis that drew on data from a primary ethnographic study that explored older adults’ aging-in-place and their social connectedness to their neighbourhoods using qualitative and geospatial methods. Data were initially obtained from 14 older adults residing in two neighbourhoods in Southwestern Ontario. One neighbourhood was a smaller “village” in the center of a larger city that had amenities nearby, while the second neighbourhood was situated in a suburb with some shopping resources in the area. Older adults participated in go-along, narrative, and geospatial map-based interviews with activity diaries. Researchers in the present study used these data to examine older adults’ perceptions of their community mobility and used a narrative thematic analysis to identify themes within participants’ stories.

Findings:
The researchers found four dynamic themes that contribute to older adults’ community mobility: the need for personal safety, the influence of convenience, the diverse meanings behind community mobility, and future planning in mobility. These themes were not drawn out from the data as isolated considerations, but were revealed as interconnected and cohesive descriptions that informed older adults’ community mobility.

Implications:
This comprehensive approach using qualitative and geospatial methods revealed novel findings that provide a more holistic understanding about older adults’ community mobility. With this deeper understanding, key community stakeholders in the age-friendly community movement, such as older-adults, policy-makers, and healthcare professionals, can collaborate to help remove barriers to create safe and accessible communities for older adults to mobilize in and age in place. Given that occupational therapists are trained to analyze and understand the dynamic relationship between person and place, they are well-positioned to collaborate with these stakeholders to help plan and advocate for age-friendly communities. As this study focused on older adults that were relatively mobile and physically active, future research can explore how a more diverse population of older adults engage in community mobility within various neighbourhood contexts.
Understanding Quality of Life in Occupational Therapy: A Scoping Review
Poster #7

Haley Baron, Natalie Hawrylyshyn, Samantha Hunt & Dr. Janette McDougall

Background:
Quality of life (QOL) has been heavily researched in the last several decades, yet there is little consensus regarding its meaning in occupational therapy literature. As a result, measurement of QOL has varied greatly in both research and practice.

Purpose:
The aim of this study was to examine the definitions and outcome measures of QOL within quantitative occupational therapy intervention research. By highlighting emerging trends and potential gaps in the literature, areas for future research can be identified to further the profession's understanding of QOL.

Methods:
A scoping review was completed by searching the following six databases: CINAHL, PubMed, Embase, ERIC, Scopus, and PsychINFO. Article titles were searched for occupational therapy-related concepts (occupation, occupational therapy, occupational therapist, occupational science, occupational engagement, occupational performance) and QOL-related concepts (quality of life, wellness, wellbeing, well-being, health-related quality of life, health related quality of life, life satisfaction). Articles were included in the review if they were published in English, a quantitative study that referred to or defined QOL, and had a QOL measure. Qualitative studies and non-peer reviewed (grey literature) articles were excluded. The search initially yielded 268 articles, of which 13 articles were selected for the review. Data were extracted from each article, summarized in a comprehensive table, and the authors performed descriptive statistics to determine trends for both definitions and measures.

Findings:
Five articles provided clear definitions of QOL while eight studies discussed the concept, but did not provide an explicit definition. Of the five that provided definitions, all authors viewed QOL as a multidimensional construct, but differed on which specific physical, psychological, and social domains were included. Most authors also suggested that QOL included subjective aspects, such as life satisfaction and self-perceived well-being. One article used a definition of Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQOL). Eleven different standardized measures and two non-standardized measures were utilized, ranging from indexes of life satisfaction to measures of functional status. The following gaps were identified: a lack of clarity regarding the conceptualization of QOL from an occupational therapy perspective and an absence of consistent measurement tools to evaluate QOL as an outcome of occupational therapy intervention.

Implications:
This scoping review identified the lack of consistency regarding a definition of QOL in the field of occupational therapy, which is therefore impacting the selection of appropriate outcome measures for this concept. A common meaning which incorporates occupational therapy values such as client-centeredness and holism is needed to improve communication between members of the interdisciplinary team, leading to better intervention outcomes for clients. As qualitative literature was excluded from this scoping review, future research should focus on qualitative literature to gain a thorough understanding of the perspectives of occupational therapists and clients regarding QOL. With such knowledge, suitable outcome measures which draw on relevant occupational therapy theories and frameworks can be developed, thereby demonstrating the relevance of the profession for health care services moving forward.
The Use of Orthotic Interventions for Improving Post-Traumatic Elbow Range of Motion in Adults: A Scoping Review
Poster #8

Asma Imtiaz, Daniel McIntosh, Erin McQuay, Christian Savoni, Troy Taylor, & Dr. Mike Szekeres

Background:
Stiffness or decreased range of motion (ROM) after trauma can be accompanied by major loss of function depending on the severity of scar tissue formation. Elbow stiffness is common after trauma to the elbow (Doornberg et al., 2014). Two previous systematic reviews examined non-surgical treatments to improve elbow ROM following trauma (Muller et al., 2013; Veltman et al., 2015) These reviews included several studies with child participants. Since children are less prone to stiffness after immobilization (Gaston & Simpson, 2007), this data could have positively skewed the effects of the aforementioned treatments. The goal of occupational therapy treatment in this context is to increase joint function and improve independent performance of activities of daily living (Amini, 2011).

Purpose:
The purposes of this scoping review were threefold: to specifically examine adults participating in orthotic treatment to improve ROM in the elbow after trauma, to provide an update in the literature regarding how orthotics can be used as an intervention for improving elbow ROM after trauma, and to identify new trends in the research that could provide valuable evidence supporting Occupational Therapists in the implementation and execution of updated practice methods.

Methods:
This scoping review was conducted using the five-step methodological framework created by Arksey and O’Malley (2005). A comprehensive search of the literature was performed using the following databases: MedLine, Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, Scopus, Nursing and Allied Health, and Cochrane. The key terms were elbow, trauma, range of motion, and orthosis, which were each searched with their synonymous and associated terms using the function OR. The four product searches that used the OR function were then combined using the AND function to present the final search results. Data involving child participants was removed to show orthotic improvement of ROM in adults only.

Findings:
6 studies met inclusion criteria, including one randomized control trial (RCT) and five retrospective reviews. 169 subjects were available after excluding children. Upon exclusion, the mean arc of motion changed from 40.2° to 38.7°, the mean improvement in flexion changed from 19.7° to 20°, and the mean improvement in extension changed from 20.5° to 20°. Three of the included studies utilized Disabilities of the Arm, Shoulder and Hand scores. The average dynamic score across three studies was 21.67, and the average static progressive score in the single study was 26.

Implications:
Excluding children from studies examining the effect of orthotic treatment on post-traumatic elbow stiffness following trauma made little difference (1.5°). Previous systematic reviews have shown a clinically relevant improvement with the use of static progressive orthoses for improving elbow ROM, and the inclusion of children did not bias the results of these previous contributions to the literature. Future research in this area would benefit from more rigorous prospective RCTs as well as comparisons between orthotic techniques and strategies for use in Occupational Therapy. Finally, future studies focusing on the effectiveness of elbow orthotics for children will allow for more reliable comparisons to that of an adult population.
The Relationship Between Preoperative Expectations and Postoperative Satisfaction: A Scoping Review
Poster #9

Meredith Dendy, Marcela Fajth, Alex Kijak, Patricia Nguyen, Lauren Schwalm, Leann Merla OT Reg. (Ont), & Dr. Trish Tucker

Background:
Approximately 34,000 Canadians undergo a total hip replacement (THR) each year. It is important to shed light on clients’ assumptions about changes in their quality of life with their new hip, as the relationship between clients’ preoperative expectations and postoperative satisfaction is not clearly represented in the literature. This needs to be addressed, as skewed expectations on postoperative function and/or pain may impact life satisfaction or satisfaction with the procedure if they are not met.

Purpose:
The purpose of this scoping review was to better understand the relationship between preoperative expectations and postoperative satisfaction for adults over the age of 16 who have undergone an elective THR.

Methods:
A scoping review methodology was used to contextualize and comprehensively summarize past empirical and theoretical literature to provide depth of understanding of this topic. Databases inclusive of the topic of occupational therapy that were searched included CINAHL, PubMed, EMBASE, Nursing and Allied Health, PsycINFO and Scopus. Three categories identified from the research question included “preoperative expectations”, “postoperative satisfaction” and “elective surgery” Within all databases, search terms within each category were combined with “OR”, and terms between categories were combined with “AND”. Articles were included if they focused on the relationship between expectations and satisfaction, regarding their elective THR. Articles were excluded if they included patients under age 16, were not English, or were grey literature. The initial search produced 2571 articles, of those, 14 were deemed relevant. Included studies were read by all researchers and data pertaining to the research question was extracted. A thematic analysis was used to collate and describe the relationship of interest. Synthesis of these themes illustrated what is currently known about patient expectations and satisfaction.

Findings:
Emerging themes included: predictors of satisfaction, pain, psychosocial wellbeing, essential/nonessential activities, walking, return to work, preoperative education, and cosmesis. From these themes, conflicting evidence was found regarding the relationship between preoperative expectations and postoperative satisfaction. Only three quantitative studies found a correlation between these concepts, emphasizing that realistic preoperative expectations correlated with increased postoperative satisfaction. The results from this review illustrate variability and do not provide strong evidence to confirm the nature of relationship between preoperative expectations and postoperative satisfaction. This review is limited by the absence of quality analysis of the included articles, and thus it does not have the ability to determine if their results are valid and accurate across the population of interest.

Implications:
Analysis of the current literature produced inconclusive results regarding the relationship between preoperative expectations and postoperative satisfaction. This variance challenges the ability of the researchers to speak to the relationship between these concepts. However, the thematic results found in this review may be used to inform future, more holistic research on the patient experience, and may inform standards of informed consent. This study also presents implications relevant to occupational therapists and other practitioners who provide educational and healthcare services to this patient population. These professionals can enhance understanding for patients, to help create realistic expectations for the THR procedure, with the goal to improve overall satisfaction after surgery.
The Association between ADL Assessments and Acute Hospital Readmission for Community-Dwelling Elders: A Scoping Review
Poster #10

Devon Boschel, Alicia Dam, Rachel Koot, Dayna Payment, Ashley Seguin, Leann Merla OT Reg. (Ont.), & Dr. Trish Tucker

Background:
Occupational therapists in acute care settings commonly use assessments of activities of daily living (ADL) to determine discharge readiness. However, the association between in-hospital ADL performance and readmission is unclear. It is necessary to determine the utility of these assessments, as supported by evidence, to inform occupational therapy practice.

Purpose:
The purpose of this scoping review was to explore the relationship between in-hospital ADL assessments and acute care readmission for community-dwelling elders. Hospital readmission was used as an objective measure of patient’s post-discharge function.

Methods:
A scoping review, based on Arksey and O’Malley’s (2005) five-stage methodological framework, was conducted to capture the full breadth of limited research available. Five databases were searched: CINAHL, Embase, ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health, PubMed, and Scopus; using older adults (aged 65+), ADL/function, assessment, and readmission as search categories. Articles were included in the review if the studies were published in English, participants had an average age of 65 years, the study took place in an acute care setting, an in-hospital ADL assessment was conducted, readmission data was collected, and the relationship between ADL performance and readmission was analyzed. Articles were excluded if the participants were discharged to a nursing home, assisted-living facility, long-term care home or rehabilitation facility; if the study took place in a rehabilitation setting; if the reason for hospital admission included elective surgery; if the participants had progressive cognitive decline; and if the effectiveness of an intervention for reducing readmission rates was analyzed. Grey literature was also excluded. The initial search yielded 9040 records. After removal of duplicates, 4140 records were screened for inclusion. Following title/abstract screening and full-text screening, which were conducted by two researchers independently, five studies were included. Relevant data from each article was charted into a data extraction sheet created in Google Docs. A descriptive approach was used to analyze the selected studies and identify relevant trends.

Findings:
Five articles, published between 1998 and 2016, were included in the scoping review. Articles comprised of a collective total of 1,589 participants with various acute care diagnoses. The five articles were published in different countries: Australia, Taiwan, United States of America, Switzerland and Israel. Four studies found a significant inverse association between in-hospital ADL performance and readmission; of these, two identified low ADL performance as significantly predictive of readmission. One study found a nonsignificant, positive trend between low ADL performance and readmission.

Implications:
Increasing acute care readmission rates among the aging population is a growing concern for the Canadian healthcare system. The results suggest an inverse relationship between ADL performance and readmission and hold promise for assisting occupational therapists in acute care discharge planning. The limitations of this review include the variability of ADL assessments, the exclusion of non-English and grey literature, and the limited studies included, which impacted the identification of trends and findings. To support these findings, future research should explore whether ADL assessments are predictive of post-discharge functioning and investigate the influence of home environment, comorbidities, and in-hospital deconditioning. Additional research in this area will help to establish a consistent measure of discharge readiness to be used by occupational therapists in acute care.
The Lived Experiences of Individuals with Parkinson’s Disease Surrounding Their Fitness to Drive
Poster #11

Kaylie Gilhuly, Emily Horst, Aaron Kowalchuk, Kayleigh Rathwell, Yanni Reklitis, Nolan Wheildon, Dr. Lilianna Alvarez, & Dr. Jeffrey Holmes

Background:
In Western culture, the occupation of driving is critical for individuals to maintain their independence, autonomy, quality of life, and social participation. Parkinson’s Disease (PD) presents with both motor and non-motor symptoms, which can lead to impaired fitness to drive and possibly driving cessation.

Purpose:
The purpose of this study was to explore the lived experiences of driving in individuals diagnosed with PD. Prior to this study, literature surrounding this topic was largely quantitative, with limited research exploring the meaning of driving and the experiences associated with driving in individuals diagnosed with PD. This study was the first to explore the lived experiences surrounding fitness to drive within this population.

Methods:
The present study was a secondary analysis of a previous photo voice narrative inquiry that examined the lived experiences of 19 participants diagnosed PD. Transcripts from this original inquiry were reviewed and highlighted to focus exclusively on the impact of PD on driving. Each transcript was coded, generating preliminary codes. These preliminary codes were then discussed between researchers, creating a finalized set of parent and child codes. The transcripts were then re-coded using this finalized set, and a summative content analysis was employed to identify themes and subthemes.

Findings:
Five themes and 21 subthemes regarding the lived experiences of individuals with PD surrounding their fitness to drive were identified within the transcripts. In order of frequency, the five themes identified were as follows: meaning of driving, driving cessation, factors affecting driving, modified driving behaviors, and accessibility.

Implications:
This study demonstrated the impact that PD has on fitness to drive and how an individual’s sense of independence, quality of life, and social participation can be affected as a result. This research also illustrates the impact that impaired fitness to drive has on an individual’s social network, and how this impaired fitness to drive can reduce an individual’s engagement in various occupations. These findings can help to inform clinical reasoning as clinicians are now better able to understand the lived experiences of driving in individuals with PD and thus use this information to better plan for driving rehabilitation or cessation. Given that this study was the first to explore the lived experiences surrounding fitness to drive in those with PD, future research on this topic is warranted. More specifically, further research with a more diverse sample could help identify additional findings and themes informing occupational therapy practice and allow for the development of inclusive institutional policies that promote occupational engagement.
Exploring Pragmatic Reasoning in Children with Physical Disabilities who use Aided Communication
Poster #12

Melanie Campos, Kait Robbins, Nadine Thomas, Jennifer Van Dorp, Lisa Van Osch, & Dr. Beata Batorowicz

Background:
Little research is available on the pragmatic reasoning abilities of children with complex communication needs who use alternative and augmentative communication (AAC) and have severe motor impairments. Pragmatic reasoning is demonstrated by the use of language to efficiently convey information within a context of daily life participation; these abilities are necessary for children to develop social skills. Research has demonstrated that children with communication impairments may experience challenges in pragmatic reasoning. For these children, AAC can enhance communication and language development, including development of pragmatic reasoning abilities.

Purpose: The purpose of this study was to explore pragmatic reasoning abilities of children who have severe motor and communication impairments and use AAC for expressive communication.

Methods:
This study, as part of the “Becoming an Aided Communicator” international research project, used a mixed method approach to analyze the interactions of 11 children, six with severe motor and communication impairments who use AAC (mean age 10.2 years) and a reference group of five children with TD. Each child completed 12 pragmatic cartoon tasks depicting hypothetical social situations and was videotaped with two cameras. Two authors independently coded the children’s responses as precise, too detailed, too general, irrelevant, or no answer, and the time to provide a response was recorded. A process analysis for two children who use AAC included a description of the number of switch activations, screens accessed, and errors made on the child’s speech generating device (SGD), as well as the unaided communication utilized to provide a response.

Findings:
Children who use AAC provided precise responses most frequently (48.61%), followed by too general (30.56%) and irrelevant (19.44%) responses. Children with AAC provided fewer precise responses in reference to children with TD. Children who use AAC had a large variation in time to respond, ranging between 1 and 870 seconds. The three children using scanning on their SGD took, on average, 6.7 times longer than the three children using pointing. Two children who use AAC used both unaided communication (eye contact, smiles, head movements, and vocalizations) and aided communication methods (SGD) and made 65 and 18 switch activations for a simpler scenario, compared to 121 and 41 for a more complex scenario.

Implications:
This study suggests that children who use AAC may need increased time to respond to tasks requiring pragmatic reasoning skills. Although not always precise, a response was provided to each task by children who use AAC, suggesting that when given adequate time and AAC system support, they are able to express a desired response. These findings suggest it is important for clinicians to recognize the value of AAC systems and strategies as well as the time and effort required by children who use them to communicate. Furthermore, this study documents developmental achievements of children with severe communication and motor impairments despite the physical, cognitive and linguistic demands involved in using a SGD. It suggests they may benefit from more opportunities for exploration and interaction to further develop their pragmatic language abilities.