

A Survey of Assessment instruments Used in Occupational Therapy Clinics

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Introduction

- The assessment of client is considered an integral part of the treatment process.
- Supports continuation and demonstrate the essence of the occupational therapy services (Unsworth, 2000).
- Plays a key role in the clients' treatment planning and implementation (Fleming, 1991).

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Types of Assessment

- Impairment- focused
- Functionally oriented
- Occupation- focused.
- Clinical utility (easily administered, time efficient, and easily scored)
- Sound Psychometric properties.
- Theory Driven.
- Client-centered.

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Purpose

- Explore the assessment used in OT clinics :
 1. What are the most common assessments used in different OT areas of practice?
 2. What are the reasons for using the OT assessments?
 3. What are the study implications to OT education and practice?

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Method

- OT Participants:
 - Convenience sample (274 OT practitioners from 38 different states).
 - Occupational therapy educators, researchers and students were excluded from the study.
- The questionnaire explored:
 1. Area of practice,
 2. Assessment used,
 3. Rationale for using the assessment.

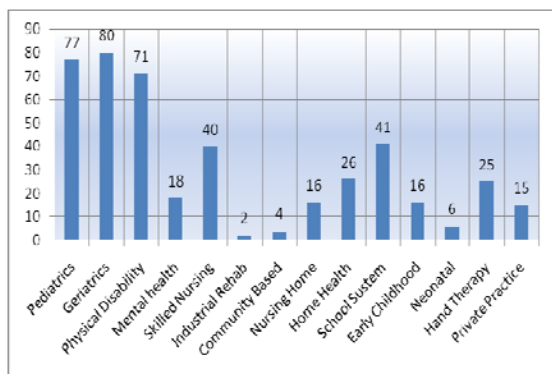
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Results (Area of Practice)

- Geriatrics (30.8%).
- Pediatrics (29.6%).
- Physical disability (27.3%).
- Hand therapy (9.6%).
- Mental health (6.9%).
- Industrial rehab (less than 1%).
- community based (1.5%).

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Results (Area of Practice)



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Results (Setting)

- School system (15.8%).
- Skilled nursing facility (15.4%).
- Home health (10%).
- Nursing home and early childhood intervention (6.2%).
- Private practice (5.8%).
- Neonatal intensive care setting (2.3%).

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Results (Geriatrics)

- Top 10 assessments used:
 - Goniometer (56.3%)
 - Dynamometer and Nine Hole Peg Test (47.5%)
 - Allen Cognitive Levels and Functional Independence Measure (37.5%)
 - Pinch Meter (31.3%)
 - Kohlman Evaluation of Living Skills (26.3%)
 - Canadian Occupational Performance Measure and Motor-Free Visual Perception Test-3 (18.8%)
 - Minnesota rate of Manipulation TEST (16.3%)

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Results (Pediatrics)

- Top 10 assessments used:
 - Sensory Profile (68.8%)
 - Bruininks –Oseretsky Test of Motor Proficiency and Peabody Developmental Motor Scales (66.2%)
 - Handwriting Without Tears (58.4%)
 - Berry-Bknetica VMI (48.1%)
 - Motor-Free Visual Perception Test-3 and Test of Visual Perceptual Skills-Revised (TVPS) (n-m) R (36.4%)
 - Test of Visual Motor Skills-Revised (TVMS-R) (35.1%)
 - Goniometer (29.9%)
 - Hawaii Early Learning Profile (24.7%)

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Results (Reason for Using Assessment)

- The top cited reason: Because of its availability in the OT clinics.
- The least cited reason: Because its newly developed.
- More than third of the participants supported the use of assessments due to their clinical utility and standardization.

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Results (Reason for Using Assessment)

- 30 % : Client-centeredness
- 18.5 % : Developed by OTs
- 16 % : Taught in OT school/fieldwork
- 10 % + : Satisfy insurance companies
- 10 % + : Theory driven

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Discussion

- Most of the assessments targeted body structure and function.
- OT assessments should be functionally oriented and occupationally centered.
- Otherwise, identity crisis develops and professional integrity weakens.

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Implications to Education and Practice

- The value of education.
- Triggers a warning sign to educators about the future of OT practice
- Raise a concern towards curriculum content taught in OT schools.
- Ongoing collaborations between OT educators and clinicians is emphasized.

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Limitations

- Sample size was small
- Restricted to only OT practitioners attending the AOTA's 86th Annual Conference.
- The questionnaire was not extensively reviewed by a focus group.

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Conclusion and Recommendations

- Attention should be given to the kinds of assessments used in OT clinics.
- The focus of these assessments should mainly encompass functional and occupational based perspective.
- Impairment-based assessments can only be used in conjunction with and supplementary to the functional and occupation-focus assessments.
 - Directly related to causes of clients' disabilities

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