The Ice-breaking Stage of Oncology Occupational Therapy in Taiwan

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Introduction

• Cancer has been the top leading cause of death in Taiwan since 1982
• Cancer death account for 27.7% of all death
• The average five-year relative survival rate is more than 60%
• 63% of cancer survivors need for at least one rehabilitation service, and 40% reported unmet need (Thorsen, 2011)
Introduction

• Most survivors in terminal stage still express strong motivation to perform daily tasks or participate in personally meaningful activities. (蘇、李、廖、蘇，2004；Pergolotti, Cutchin, & Muss, 2014)

• High quality care service need comprehensive professional training in continuum care of cancer survivors (Silver & Gilchrist, 2011; Silver, et al., 2015 ; )
Objectives

1. To investigate the perception of practitioner in cancer rehabilitation
2. To find out strategies for practitioners to dedicate in cancer rehabilitation
Method

- Questionnaire survey and focus group
- Five-point Likert scale questionnaire: 20 items, 5 negative items are included
- The respondent rate is 74.56%(85/114)
Method

- 8 experts were invited in this focus group
- 4 OT, 1 PT, 1 nutritionist, 2 social workers
- Interview protocol was developed prior to focus group meeting
- The interview of focus group were recorded and analyzed from verbatim
Method

• Interview protocol:
  – Regarding to the results of questionnaire, what are your suggestions to university course?
  – How to encourage practioners to promote the contribution of occupational therapy and themselves in oncology or cancer care team?
  – Please discuss the strategies to encourage practioners devote themselves in cancer rehabilitation.
Results

- Results of questionnaire:
  - The current health insurance/payment is sufficient to support occupational therapist to implement cancer rehabilitation (2.19)
  - The current work performance reward mechanism make me willing to promote cancer rehabilitation (2.39)
  - I feel professional organization did few promotion in cancer rehabilitation (2.47)
  - I feel that medical team member do not know what occupational therapists can do in cancer care (2.5)
Results

• Results from questionnaire:
  – I think entry-level curriculum contains sufficient basic knowledge and skill of cancer rehabilitation (2.57)
  – I think I have sufficient confidence to promote OT in cancer care (2.7)
  – I think I have sufficient practical experience to care cancer survivors (2.79)
Results

- Lack of knowledge and practicum
- Health policy
- Lack of self-confidence
- Not recognized by other team member
Discussion

**Education program**
- One independent course in university curriculum
- Co teaching with practioners
- Contains more proportions of cancer rehab into national examination

**Health Policy**
- Hospital accreditation system

**Interdisciplinary teaming**
- Interprofessional workshops
- Self-recommendation in interprofessional team
- To develop guideline or handbook of cancer care for OT practioners

**Professional organization**
- Strive for becoming one of committee member in national cancer prevention foundation
Conclusion

• Occupational therapy is the best profession which could provide continuum care of survivors from prevention to palliative care
• This study demonstrated the barriers and the strategies to overcome the barriers
• Professional talent inventory in cancer rehabilitation
• Evidence-based research and practice
Dankie!
Thank you for your listening!
謝謝！