
Exploring Primary Contact Occupational Therapy Hand Clinics: The pull of an occupational perspective

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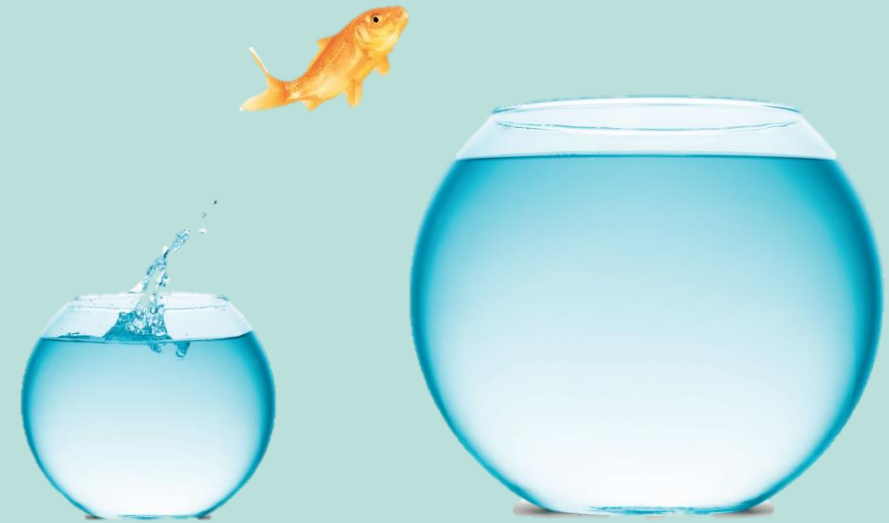
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Overview

- Background to the study
- Research aims
- Methodology
- Results
- Limitations
- Study implications

Background

- ∅ Allied health professionals are emerging into advanced scope roles
- ∅ Medical substitution role: occupational therapists assess and manage patients on the waiting list to see an orthopaedic surgeon



Scoping review findings



Informal discussion as an occupational strategy



Bottom up approaches



Focus on assessment and evaluation



Inconsistent terminology

Burley, S., Cox, R., Di Tommaso, A., & Molineux, M. (2018). An occupational perspective in hand therapy: A scoping review. *British Journal of Occupational Therapy* (online access).

Research aims



- Primary Contact Occupational Therapy Hand (PCOTH) clinics
- Aimed to explore, from an occupational perspective, the practice of occupational therapists working in PCOTH clinics
- Ethnography
- Ethics approval granted

Data collection

Initial interview with each participant



Observation totaling 60 hours, observing 51 patients and 48 occupational therapy sessions.



Documentation review of each patients' progress note in the medical record.



Final interview with each participant

Data analysis

- LeCompte & Schensul (1999) – item, pattern and constitutive stages



Biomedical
culture

1. Bottom up approach to an occupational perspective
2. An occupational perspective via informal discussion
3. Occupational therapists' expectations of patients
4. An occupational perspective on autopilot
5. Blurred professional identity

Occupational
perspective

Results

“we need to make sure we’re assessing all the things the [orthopaedic surgeons] would assess.”

“...finding out ... about the person as a whole and what’s important to them and what their occupations are is an **added bonus** in terms of what we offer over what the orthopaedic surgeon would offer.”

Results

“I find it more useful to say, ‘okay, how is your work going? How is your housework going? Are you back at soccer yet?’

An occupational perspective via informal discussion

Ted's story

Occupational therapists' expectations of patients

“... you just get on autopilot, and you don't understand why you're asking the questions that you're really asking.”

An occupational perspective on autopilot

“we try and give a more holistic treatment than what the orthopaedic surgeons do...”

Blurred professional identity

Limitations

- Impact of the researcher.
- Specific context of PCOTH clinics.
- Participation in the research may have directly or indirectly impacted the organisational culture of the clinics.



Study implications

Outcome measures utilised
to inform practice

CMOP-E
(Polatajko et al., 2013)

Professional development

Supervision that includes
critical reflection on practice

Critical reflection on our
unique contribution and
emerging practice areas

More research to explore
patients' perspectives

References

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Questions

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