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Direct media inquiries to Katie Riley, Manager of Media and Public Relations, at kriley@aota.org.
Policy and Payment Changes Create New Opportunities for Occupational Therapy in Acute Care

Kevin T. Pritchard, Gail Fisher, Kay McGee Rudnitsky, Ricardo D. Ramirez

Occupational therapy can advance consumer satisfaction, outcomes, and efficiency in acute care, thereby increasing recognition of the vital role that occupational therapy can play and leading to expanded opportunities.


Alex W. K. Wong, Cynthia Chen, M. Carolyn Baum, Robert K. Heaton, Berrit Goodman, Allen W. Heinemann

Executive functioning strongly predicts gainful employment for people after injury, highlighting the importance of cognitive rehabilitation to optimize return-to-work outcomes.

A Touch-Observation and Task-Based Mirror Therapy Protocol to Improve Sensorimotor Control and Functional Capability of Hands for Patients With Peripheral Nerve Injury

Hsiu-Yun Hsu, Po-Tsun Chen, Ta-Shen Kuan, Hsiu-Ching Yang, Shyh-Jou Shieh, Li-Chieh Kuo

Touch-observation and task-based mirror therapy was found to be an effective but low-cost treatment protocol to improve hand function in patients with peripheral nerve injury.

Feeding Patterns and Parental Perceptions of Feeding Issues of Preterm Infants in the First 2 Years of Life

Tsu-Hsin Howe, Ching-Fan Sheu, Tien-Ni Wang

Researchers found parent-perceived feeding issues to be a major source of parenting distress; occupational therapy practitioners should consider the primary caregiver–infant dyad as the unit when designing feeding interventions.

Sensory Features and Family Functioning in Families of Children With Autism and Developmental Disabilities: Longitudinal Associations

Anne V. Kirby, Kathryn L. Williams, Linda R. Watson, John Sideris, John Bulluck, Grace T. Baranek

Findings support the need for practitioners to understand the potentially enduring effects of children’s sensory features on everyday family functioning.

Reliability and Validity of a Functional Cognition Screening Tool to Identify the Need for Occupational Therapy

Dorothy Farrar Edwards, Timothy J. Wolf, Timothy Marks, Sarah Alter, Victoria Larkin, Braedon L. Padesky, Meredith Spiers, Muhammad O. Al-Heizan, Gordon Muir Giles

Research supports the reliability, validity, and clinical utility of the Menu Task as a screening measure of functional cognition.


Emily Somerville, Kayla Massey, Marian Keglovits, Scott Vouri, Yi-Ling Hu, David Carr, Susan Stark

The HOME–Rx can help occupational therapy practitioners determine performance problems, safety concerns, and environmental barriers to guide treatment planning and improve medication management for older adults.

Evaluation of the Reliability and Validity of the Brazilian Version of the Here’s How I Write: A Child’s Self-Assessment and Goal Setting Tool

Juliana Flores Mendonça Alves, Adriana M. Valladão Novais Van Petten, Sharon A. Cermak, Lívia de Castro Magalhães

The Brazilian version of the HHIW was found to be reliable and to differentiate between children with good and poor handwriting.
Handgrip Strength: A Comparison of Values Obtained From the NHANES and NIH Toolbox Studies
Richard W. Bohannon, Ying-Chih Wang, Sheng-Che Yen, Kimberly A. Grogan

Grip strength measures obtained from the NHANES and NIH Toolbox are summarized by side, gender, and age group strata; updated reference values are essential to assist in the interpretation of testing results and clinical decision making.

Occupational Therapists’ Perceptions of Online Competence Assessment and Evidence-Based Resources
Christine T. Myers

An online competence assessment was shown to help occupational therapists identify professional development needs and evidence-based resources for their practice.

“The Bigger Picture”: Occupational Therapy Practitioners’ Perspectives on Disability Studies
Jenna L. Heffron, Danbi Lee, Laura VanPuymbrouck, Alisa Jordan Sheth, Jacqueline Kish

Occupational therapy practitioners describe their perspectives and experiences related to integrating disability studies approaches into professional education and practice.

Participation in Peer-Play Activities Among Children With Specific Learning Disability: A Randomized Controlled Trial
Samaneh Karamali Esmaili, Afsoon Hassani Mehraban, Narges Shafaroodi, Farzaneh Yazdani, Tayebe Masoumi, Masoume Zarei

The use of peer-play activities based on the Model of Human Occupation was found to enhance executive function in children with a specific learning disability.

Adapted Feeding Utensils for People With Parkinson’s-Related or Essential Tremor
Joyce Sabari, Dimitre G. Stefanov, Judy Chan, Lorraine Goed, Joyce Starr

The authors summarize research comparing the effectiveness of four different adapted utensils designed to assist people with Parkinson’s disease and essential tremor during feeding.

Early Identification of Sensory Processing Difficulties in High-Risk Infants
Joanne E. Flanagan, Sarah Schoen, Lucy Jane Miller

Babies ages 4–24 mo at high risk for SPD can be differentiated from those at low risk; motor, sensory processing, language, and cognitive skills should be monitored in high-risk infants.

Vehicle Modification Prescription: Australian Occupational Therapy Consensus-Based Guidelines
Marilyn Di Stefano, Rwth Stuckey, Natasha Kinsman, Katrina Lavender

The authors used an action research approach to develop consensus-based draft guidelines for vehicle modification prescription that are ready for trialing by occupational therapy driver assessors.

Measuring Reliability of Movement With Accelerometry: Fitbit® Versus Actigraph®
Veronica T. Rowe, Marsha Neville

Although both the Fitbit and the Actigraph accelerometers can quantitatively measure upper extremity movement, the Fitbit was found to be less sensitive than the Actigraph.

Tailored Activities to Reduce Neuropsychiatric Behaviors in Persons With Dementia: Case Report
Katherine A. Marx, Janie B. Scott, Catherine Verrier Piersol, Laura N. Gitlin

A case report describes how occupational therapists working with families of clients with dementia can use a protocol to implement activities tailored to the person’s capacities and context, thereby reducing neuropsychiatric behaviors and increasing engagement in meaningful activity.

Columns

The Issue Is . . .

Occupational Therapy Can Benefit From an Interprofessional Rehabilitation Treatment Specification System
Susan E. Fasoli, Mary K. Ferraro, Susan H. Lin

An RTSS can stimulate a deeper discussion of treatment targets and ingredients and set the stage for improved clinical reasoning, care coordination, and comparative effectiveness research.

The Association

AOTA’s Top 5 Choosing Wisely® Recommendations
Glen Gillen, Elizabeth G. Hunter, Deborah Lieberman, Melissa Stutzbach

Through Choosing Wisely®, an initiative with the ABIM Foundation, AOTA developed and published “Five Things Patients and Providers Should Question” to start dialogue within the occupational therapy profession about providing quality services that are supported by evidence, not duplicative, free from harm, and truly necessary.