

## POSTERS

**Authors:** Trohandi De Klerk, Jana Stobwasser, Janine Human, Tyler Voigt, Thea Bothma

**Abstract Title:** Roles, Rituals and Emotional Regulation of rugby players on different competitive levels.

**Abstract:**

The game of rugby is considered one of the most popular sporting activities in South Africa. It is performed on both amateur and professional levels and engaged in by male and female players ranging from pre-school to adults. The purpose of the study was to describe and compare the roles, rituals and emotional regulation, on and off the field, of male rugby players on three different competitive levels in the Free State. A cross-sectional study design was used amongst rugby players (n=45); 1 team per competitive level (3 levels). The results of the study showed significant differences with regards to roles that rugby players on the different competitive levels assume and the importance which they ascribe to each role. Variations exist in the rituals that the rugby players on the different competitive levels perform before and during a game of rugby. The degree to which situations are experienced as stressful differs across the teams. Across all three teams, the use of positive verbal and non-verbal expression is used more than negative expression. Across all three teams suppression is used more than reappraisal, on and off the field. Further research on the occupation of rugby with specific focus on client factors is recommended.

Key words: Roles, rituals, emotional regulation, occupational therapy, rugby

**Authors:** Genna Delsemme, Denise Franzsen

**Abstract Title:** Effect of the Wilbarger Deep Tactile And Proprioceptive Technique on Salivary Cortisol in Children with Sensory Processing Difficulties

**Abstract:**

Introduction

In children who present with Sensory Modulation Disorders (SMD) physiological dysregulation has been found to underlie defensive responses to sensation. The Wilbarger Deep Tactile and Proprioceptive Technique (DTPT) is directed toward assisting the client in achieving internal adaptation on a physiological level as the brain and nervous system learn to process, organise and integrate sensory information.

Aim of the study

Introduction

This study investigated the changes salivary cortisol before and after administration of a single application of the Wilbarger Deep Tactile and Proprioceptive Technique (DTPT) in children with SMD.

Methodology

In a pre- and post-test research design, the salivary cortisol levels of 20 participants was assessed before and after administration of the Wilbarger DTPT. Pre-test cortisol samples were taken after a 15 activity session. Each child received the DTPT brushing technique and post-test cortisol samples were taken after another 15 minute activity session.

Results

Baseline cortisol levels moved in the direction indicating a more modulated state of sympathetic arousal after receiving the Wilbarger DTPT. The participants were divided into three groups – those with sensory sensitivity and overresponsivity whose cortisol levels decreased – The second group showed an increase in cortisol levels and were found to have underresponsivity and the third group with no change in cortisol levels showed low registration and underresponsivity. Statistically, significant changes were found for the increase and a decrease in cortisol levels.

Conclusion

The association between salivary cortisol levels and therefore, sympathetic nervous system arousal and the Wilbarger DTPT, was confirmed.

**Authors:** Juliana Freeme, Liane Benjamin, Jenna Cohen, Taryn Everett, Chana-Leah Glass, Amy Volker

**Abstract Title:** The most important and difficult functional tasks as perceived by stroke survivors in Johannesburg

**Abstract:**

Occupational therapists should consider the changing occupational profiles of stroke survivors when planning intervention and setting outcomes for therapy.

The aim of the study was to determine what the perceptions of stroke survivors are regarding the most important and most difficult functional tasks after they have suffered a stroke. These tasks were then compared to the functional tasks currently treated by occupational therapists in Johannesburg. This enabled the researchers to determine whether occupational therapists are meeting the needs of stroke patients in rehabilitation.

Eleven stroke survivors between the age of 50 and 65, performed a card sort and ranked the functional tasks they feel are the most important in their lives, and which tasks they are experiencing most difficulty with.

Stroke survivors would benefit from home visits and group intervention to address their current needs. The importance of including the patient's family was also highlighted in the findings. The results of this study will enable occupational therapists to consider more carefully what outcomes they should set with their patients specifically in Johannesburg.

**Authors:** Marna Hartman, Lyndsay Koch

**Abstract Title:** The psychometric properties of the modified Kid Play Profile

**Abstract:**

The assessment of play as an occupation is difficult in occupational therapy due to the lack of tools that measure play directly from the child. The modified Kid Play Profile (mKPP) is a tool developed from the original Kid Play Profile for use in South Africa that collects information about play from children themselves.

Field testing on the mKPP was carried out with 48 children in grades 1 - 3 in the Tshwane/Pretoria area. This presentation will report on the psychometric properties of the mKPP and will focus on the test-retest reliability, internal consistency and error rate of the tool.

**Author:** Stefanie Kruger

**Abstract Title:** Cochlear implants in children - a sensory awakening with evolving technology

**Abstract:**

When considering the structural impact of cochlear implants (CI) on the inner ear, it is relevant to consider the clinical impact of CI on the vestibular system.

As an Occupational Therapist working within the field of Ayres Sensory Integration, the clinician's approach has to evolve with technology. Supported by literature, suggested therapeutic adaptations will be presented, including the assessment of patterns of dysfunction, tailoring of intervention, organisation of the therapeutic environment and the optimal use of self as therapeutic medium.

CI 'switch on' the auditory world for individuals with severe and permanent hearing loss. For some, this might be an exciting sensory awakening. For individuals with sensory processing difficulties, it might be an overwhelming experience, especially a child with no previous auditory exposure and unable to express fears, thoughts and feelings in words.

The vestibular system cannot be 'switched off' and is constantly 'awake' due to the omnipresent nature of gravity. Although we are able to block-out, avoid or turn down the volume of sound to some degree, we also cannot 'switch off' the auditory system.

Cochlear implants create an artificial sense of hearing to primarily promote language and learning. However, based on the experiences of a case study, a child's behaviour and motor control might be affected by electrical co-stimulation of the vestibular system from input received by the cochlear apparatus. With advanced technology comes the possibility of individual differences in the perception of 'new' or altered sensory input, which clinically imply specific grading possibilities and safety precautions.

**Authors:** Lebogang Maseko, Nadine Wolf, Denise Franzsen

**Abstract Title:** Satisfaction with wheelchair prescription and functional mobility of clients with spinal cord injury

**Abstract:**

There is limited research in South Africa as to whether wheelchairs prescribed to clients with spinal cord injury (SCI), especially in the private hospitals, are appropriate. Previous literature has provided evidence into the negative impact an inappropriately prescribed wheelchair has on a client with SCI and thus the need for in-depth assessments and sufficient knowledge regarding the different types of wheelchairs and biomechanical properties are of utmost importance for therapists prescribing wheelchairs.

Various studies in other countries have also emphasized the importance of client involvement, client satisfaction as well as the importance of being functionally mobile in the wheelchair in order to achieve a satisfactory quality of life.

Due to the limited research available in South Africa with regards to wheelchair prescription, the aim of this study was to investigate whether the level of involvement of the clients with SCI in a private hospital in Johannesburg in the wheelchair prescription process and the type of wheelchair prescribed is related to their level of satisfaction with the prescribed wheelchair and how this satisfaction is associated with their functional mobility in the wheelchair.

The study was a descriptive non-experimental correlational research design consisting of 40 participants. The results showed that over 87.98% of the participants had a high level of satisfaction with their wheelchair prescriptions while 84.82% were functionally mobile in their wheelchairs. There was a significant difference between the type of wheelchair prescribed and the participants' overall functioning in the wheelchair: the rigid frame wheelchair yielded a higher level of functioning in clients with SCI compared to the folding frame wheelchair, and is thus a better wheelchair to prescribe for this population group. Furthermore, the results also showed that the greater the involvement of participants in wheelchair prescription, the higher the satisfaction levels, indicating the importance for occupational therapists of being client-centred in their prescription of wheelchairs for clients with SCI.

**Author:** Anri-Louise Oosthuizen

**Abstract Title:** The Journey of the Red Island: Establishing Occupational Therapy in Madagascar

**Abstract:**

In 2010 the Madagascar Ministry of Public Health started working on a National 5-year action plan for public health, which included the development of rehabilitation services and occupational therapy in Madagascar. In 2011 South-African Occupational therapist, Anri-Louise Oosthuizen, became a partner in this journey, which led to the first Madagascar education program for occupational therapists starting in 2015. This presentation is a reflection on the journey of developing occupational therapy in Madagascar, looking at clinical reasoning behind decision making, implementation difficulties, cultural uniqueness and victories for the profession.

**Author:** Caroline Rule

**Abstract Title:** Review of Literature on using Reaction Speed Testing in the evaluation of Fitness to Drive.

**Abstract:**

Reaction speed tests do not appear to be commonly used in assessing fitness to drive, however I have found it to be a useful clinical tool in my practice. For this reason I conducted a study of the literature to investigate the research base underlying the use of reaction speed testing in evaluating driving performance. This is done as a precursor in my goal to develop a reaction speed test for the use of Occupational Therapists in the South African market. I will provide feedback on the methodology of the literature search and the studies that made a significant contribution to understanding the possible use of Reaction Speed Testing in the evaluation of Fitness to Drive. In conclusion a development framework for a South African Reaction Speed test will be discussed.