

0109

Does Functional Evaluation Effect Specialists' Decision on Disability Percentage after Hip Operation Due to Road Traffic Accident

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Introduction: This study examined the hypothesis that a combination of both medical-based examination and a function-based evaluation will change physicians' decisions about disability percentages given to patients after hip operation due to road traffic accident in comparison to disability percentages given exclusively on the basis of medical-based examinations.

Design: This is a paired controlled trial.

Objectives: 2 orthopedic and 2 occupational medical specialists determined disability percentages of 47 patients after hip operation due to road traffic accidents.

Methods: Files were given randomly to the specialists once with Functional Capacity Evaluation (FCE) summary and once without the FCE summary. Disability percentage was calculated twice with the specialists blinded to the previous evaluation.

Results: In 51% of the files the specialists decreased disability percentages in files having a FCE summary in addition to basic and standard medical information. Logistic regression showed that age and the ability to lift weight from the floor to waist level predict the change in medical disability due to having the FCE summary.

Conclusion: A functional capacity evaluation changes medical disability specialist determinations in patients after hip operations due to road traffic accidents. Further studies are warranted to determine if these results can be extrapolated to other medical conditions.

Contribution to the practice/evidence base of occupational therapy: It is accepted that the combination of both medical-based examination and a function-based evaluation is needed to properly assess impairment, disability and ability status especially, in musculoskeletal disorders. The movement toward evidence-based practice in occupational therapy and other health professions calls on occupational therapists to find and use evidence as a basis for their practice. This presentation addresses the contribution of occupational therapy assessment to the medical disability specialist determinations in patients after hip operations due to road traffic accidents.