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Use of standardized assessment measures in occupational therapy practice

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Given the far-reaching implications of the use of standardized assessments in occupational therapy, it is important to consider their use and the factors that influence their use across practice settings. Whereas there are many published studies that address the development and psychometric properties of standardized measures used in occupational therapy practice, limited information exists on their use by occupational therapists in practice.

Attendees of this session will be able to describe:

1. the use of standardized measures by occupational therapists.
2. occupational therapists' perceptions and attitudes toward use of standardized measures.
3. influences on selection and use of standardized measures.

This poster presentation will report research conducted on the use of standardized measures by occupational therapists in the United States. The survey used was modified from an instrument used in a Canadian study of measurement practices¹. The survey instrument explores occupational therapists' assessment practices including purposes of using standardized measures, frequency of administration of standardized assessments, and specific measures used; perceptions of standardized measures; and factors that influence their use of standardized measures. Surveys were mailed to a national sample of 5000 occupational therapists in the United States in Spring 2009. To analyze respondents' assessment practices, knowledge, and attitude regarding standardized measures, data will be reported using frequencies, means, and other descriptive statistics. Analysis of variance will be used to report patterns of responses, whereas multivariate analysis of variance will be used to analyze specific demographic variables with regard to multiple survey items.

This study contributes to a growing body of international work on occupational therapy assessment practice. An improved understanding of the use of standardized measures by occupational therapists has implications for academic education, continuing education, and measurement development.

Hanna, S., Russell, D., Bartlett, D., Kertoy, M., Rosenbaum, P., & Wynn, K. (2007). Measurement practices in pediatric rehabilitation: A survey of physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists in Ontario. *Physical & Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics*, 27 (2), 25 - 42.