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A cooperative venture to implement evidence based practice in student clinical placement

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Introduction

Today's health authorities and patients expect occupational therapy (OT) to be evidence based, to achieve best possible practice. The college OT programs and hospitals are required by national guidelines to develop and implement evidence based practice. The need to implement the principles of evidence based practice in OT is vital, especially in regards to students.

Objective

The aim of this project is to integrate the principles of evidence based practice during student's clinical placement, and thus simultaneously increase the use of evidence among OT clinicians.

Methods

Literature search and critical appraisal are integrated into clinical practice at Sunnaas Rehabilitation hospital and Ullevål University hospital as part of a student pilot-project. Objectives and criteria for evaluating the evidence based practice during the placement have been developed and tried out. The students are at the placement for 8 weeks. Together with their clinical tutor's the students define a question related to their practice. The students bring their questions back to the college and attend a course in evidence based practice. The clinical question is utilized for the literature search and critical appraisal, followed by clinical implementation. The students are given a total of 3 weeks to implement their respective clinical inquiry. A questionnaire related to the outlook and knowledge of evidence based practice is given the students and clinical tutors prior to and after the placement. Data from student's log will be collected.

Results

This project is initiated and funded by the Oslo College. Data will be collected from March to May 2009. Results will be analyzed in June 2009, and a project report will be submitted before 1st of October 2009. The hypothesis is that implementation of evidence based practice in student's placement, increase the use of evidence among OT clinicians.

Conclusions

It is necessary to be acquainted with research and be able to utilize evidence based practice in clinical practice as well as in the school setting, to strengthen OT.

Contribution to practice/evidence based practice of Occupational Therapy

Research strengthens and ensures quality OT practice. New evidence contributes to changes in the practice field.

Key words

Educational Methodologies