

The conflicted practice

Municipal occupational therapists' experiences with assessment of clients with cognitive impairments

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Background

Municipal OTs in Norway have received new responsibilities

Unstructured observations and standardized screening tests are frequently used

(Stigen, Bjørk et al. 2018)

Aim

The aim of this study was to explore municipal OTs *experiences* with assessment of clients with cognitive impairments

Method

- 14 individual interviews with OTs who worked with persons with cognitive impairments in municipal service
- A qualitative descriptive analysis was performed
(Sandelowski 2000; Brinkmann and Kvale 2015)

Results

- The results revealed three themes;
 1. The power of occupation
 2. Advantages and disadvantages of assessments used
 3. The need for competencies within municipal services

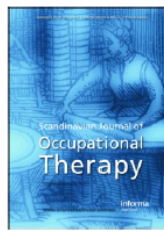
Discussion

- The conflict of working on the level of impairments or occupation
- The conflict of the standardized assessment not being good enough but still choosing to use them
- The conflict of living up to 'everybodys' expectation of what an OTs' responsibilities are, when it doesn't match their own

Conclusion

- This study illustrated a conflicted practice related to choices OTs make in their practices
- They valued the importance of working occupation based, however, they chose to use impairment based standardized assessments
- They expressed a need to engage in professional development, but due to heavy workloads, the limited power they experienced and lack of knowledge, this was difficult

References



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