PROFESSIONAL POSTER TITLE: A client’s perspectives on the role of occupational therapy in breast cancer-related lymphedema

Abstract

Lymphedema is a chronic condition that is experienced by breast cancer survivors. It affects the domains of occupation that are within the scope of occupational therapy. The Model of Human Occupation (MOHO) guided this qualitative phenomenological case study. It explored one client’s experience living with breast cancer-related lymphedema (BCRL) and her perception of the occupational therapy (OT) services she received. The case study revealed another role of OT in oncology. The outcomes of this study were used to explore possible recommendations for occupational therapy assessment and intervention. There is a need for an instrument that is specific to BCRL and OT. There is a need for a program that combines the factors of lymphedema therapy, with occupational therapy concepts of volition, habituation, lived body, and adaptation.

Figures 1-3: Compression for upper extremity lymphedema

Implications

- Adaptation occurs when the client uses volition, habits and performance skills to create new behavior patterns in response to change brought about by BCRL.
- Occupational Therapy Assessment: The proposed assessment guide includes interview, girth measurement and a MOHO-based assessment instrument
- Occupational Therapy Intervention: Volition, habituation and performance skills are essential components of adaptation.
Planned Study Follow Up

- At this time, the researcher is exploring the use of the Remotivation Program as an intervention and the MOHOST as an outcome measure.

- The planned study aims to determine if the Remotivation program will lead to increase participation and improved quality of life among breast cancer survivors with upper extremity lymphedema.

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References

The Model of Human Occupation


Qualitative Methods


Breast Cancer-Related Lymphedema


2016 FOTA Annual Conference 3


