



HandART

Hand Assessment Recommendations for Therapy

Research Group

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HandART, Hand Assessment Recommendations for Therapy

The aim of the HandART project is to reach consensus on instruments that can be used in Hand Therapy to evaluate body functions (impairments) and activity (limitations).

HandART:

A core set of assessment tools to be used in Hand Therapy that includes as few instruments as possible to be practical, but as many as necessary to assess body functions and activities, that are relevant to persons with a hand injury or hand disorder according to the Brief ICF Core Set for Hand conditions.

Introduction

Currently, there is no standardized, or universally accepted, evaluation battery for hand therapy.¹⁻⁷ While instruments to assess body functions and body structures, such as the goniometer or dynamometer, are widely used in clinical practice,⁸⁻¹⁰ there is no consensus on appropriate instruments to assess activity limitations and participation restrictions in patients with hand function problems, and patient-based outcomes such as activities of daily living have not been thoroughly investigated within the area of Hand Surgery, Hand Therapy and Hand Rehabilitation.¹⁰ Better assessment methods are required to provide the information necessary to assist in clinical decision-making.¹¹ At the moment, it would seem more appropriate to evaluate and adapt existing tools instead of designing new ones.^{2,11}

Outcome measurement is important in clinical practice, but also in research to determine which intervention is (most) effective. Nowadays, it is not only patients and health professionals who are interested in outcomes, but also hospital managers, lawyers, policy makers, and the media. Outcomes research and measurement have become the preferred approach for linking costs, quality, and efficiency in order to achieve cost-effective treatments. It might be preferred that hand surgeons and hand therapists together determine what instruments should be used, instead of policy makers or insurance companies.

The aim of the *HandART* project is to contribute in reaching consensus on instruments to evaluate body functions (impairments) and activity (limitations) to be used in Hand Therapy.

(see also information in “Research-part of EFSHT-website)

Reference List

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