USE OF THE LIFE SPACE ASSESSMENT AS AN OUTCOME TOOL FOR PERSONS SEEN IN SEATING CLINIC

Peterson, B., Brown, R, Krump, K., Wigham, K.

Mayo School of Health Sciences

No funding

The researchers are committed to protecting the confidentiality of information obtained about participants in this research study. IRB Approval October 15, 2014

Background and Purpose: Outcome measures are important in the assessment of interventions and progress of patients. The Life Space Assessment (LSA) is a questionnaire assessing extent of environmental mobility. It has not yet been assessed for reliability for patients seen in seating clinic. The primary purpose of this study was to determine reliability of the LSA in a population of persons seen in seating clinic and whether or not LSA scores are impacted by satisfaction with wheeled mobility.

Methods and Materials: Twenty-four participants provided informed consent. Nineteen completed two phone surveys consisting of demographic information, satisfaction with mobility, the LSA, and the Quebec User Evaluation of Satisfaction with assistive Technology (QUEST), at least 14 but no more than 21 days apart.

Analyses: The ICC (3,1) estimated test-retest reliability of LSA scores. Pearson correlation coefficients examined associations between scores among LSA, QUEST, patient reported symptoms, and patient reported satisfaction. Independent t-tests examined differences between manual and power wheelchair users.

Results: Analysis revealed moderate test-retest reliability for the LSA ICC= 0.854, 95% CI = 0.652 to 0.943. Manual wheelchair users had a significantly higher LSA score as compared to power users (p= 0.040). No relationship was found between LSA scores and satisfaction with mobility.

Conclusions: According to our results, participants with higher satisfaction with mobility tend to have higher QUEST scores indicating higher satisfaction with their wheelchair. Additionally, we validated the reliability of the QUEST and LSA for wheelchair users. Future studies should examine how changes made in seating clinic affect the environmental mobility of wheelchair users. Implications: The LSA and QUEST are reliable outcome measures for the wheelchair user population, indicating they are useful in the healthcare setting. Ensuring satisfaction with wheelchairs is vital for patients to maximize their functional life space.