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# A Standardized Evidence-Based Model of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Practice: A Quest for the Holy Grail?

Guy G. Simoneau

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*A Standardized Evidence-Based Model of Orthopedic Physical Therapy Practice: A Quest for the Holy Grail?* 5th Annual Ann Putnam Kaleckas Lecture. Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. April 2, 2012. © 2012 Guy Simoneau. Used with permission.

# A STANDARDIZED EVIDENCE-BASED MODEL OF ORTHOPAEDIC PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTICE: A QUEST FOR THE HOLY GRAIL?

Guy G. Simoneau, PhD, PT, ATC



Professor, Physical Therapy Department

Editor

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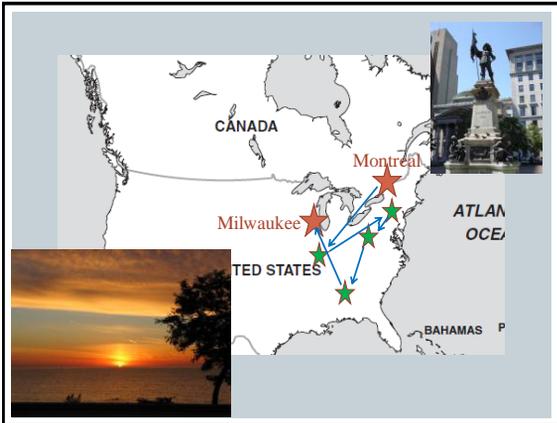
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## EVIDENCE LEADING TO A STANDARD MODEL OF PRACTICE

- Does using evidence improve delivery of care (less \$\$\$) and outcomes
- The various forms of evidence that are needed – with a quick glance to specific examples
- Delivery of information as a part of the puzzle
- (Without threatening individuality of care to refine treatment based on patient and clinical expertise)

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“One bum knee meets 5 physical therapists” ... and gets 5 different answers!!



The Wall Street Journal, September 1994

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“One bum back meets 5 physical therapists” ... and gets ?? different answers!!



But, is it really necessary to agree on what is wrong and how the condition should be treated?

Or, is part of being a professional for each of us to decide what we think is best for the patient?

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### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE USE EVIDENCE?

Does Adherence to the Guideline Recommendation for Active Treatments Improve the Quality of Care for Patients With Acute Low Back Pain Delivered by Physical Therapists?

Julie M. Fritz, PhD, PT, ATC,\*† Joshua A. Cleland, PhD, DPT, FAAOMPT,‡ and Gerard P. Brennan, PhD, PT\*

... use of patient education and exercise therapy for the treatment of acute back pain ... staying active ...

Medical Care • Volume 45, Number 10, October 2007

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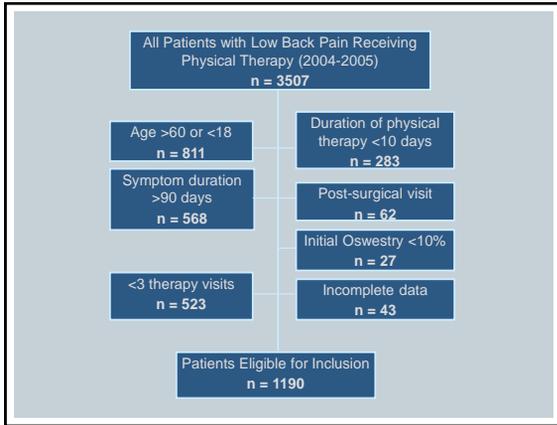
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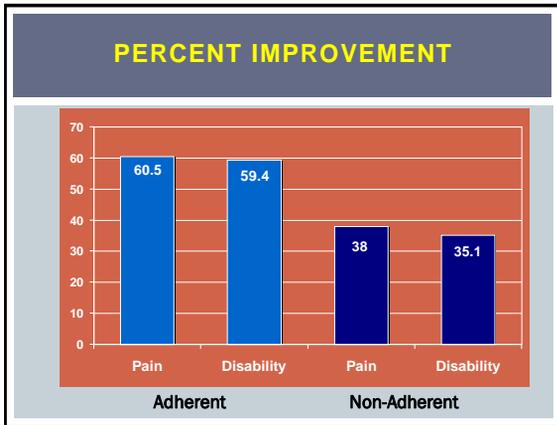
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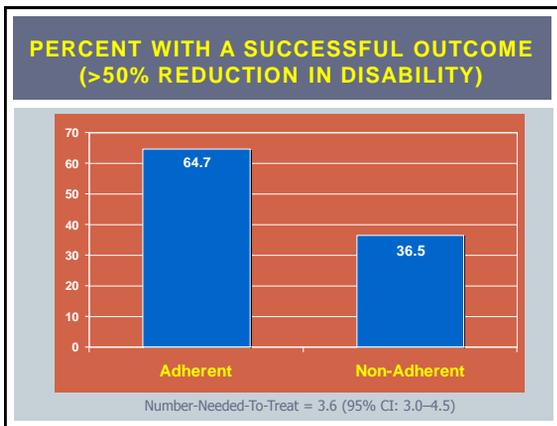
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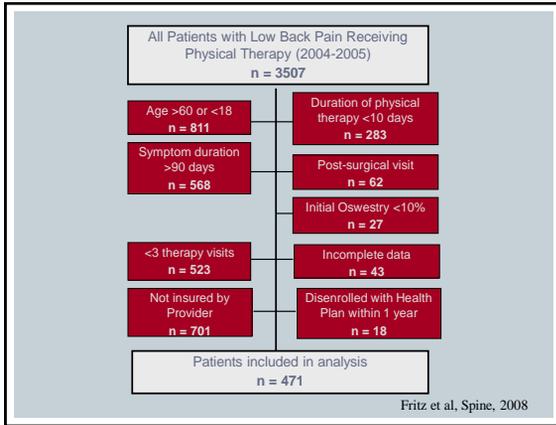
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## RESULTS

	All Subjects (n=471)	Adherent (n=132)	Non-Adherent (n=339)
Number of Visits	5.5 (2.5)	4.6 (2.0)*	5.9 (2.2)*
Duration of care (days)*	28.5 (19.5)	25.4 (16.2)*	29.7 (20.6)*
Prescription medication	54.1%	46.2%*	57.2%*
Diagnostic procedures	21.0%	14.4%*	23.6%*
Injections	13.2%	9.1%*	15.9%*
		\$1692	\$2829
1 year follow-up			* P < 0.05

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## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE USE EVIDENCE

Based on this example it could be argued that application of scientific evidence is important to improve care of patients and reduce cost of health care

### Autonomy in Physical Therapy: Less Is More

Julie Fritz, PT, PhD, ATC<sup>1</sup>  
Timothy W. Flynn, PT, PhD, OCS, FAAOMPT<sup>2</sup>

J Orthop Sports Phys Ther • Volume 35 • Number 11 • November 2005

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## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE USE EVIDENCE

So, what kind of evidence exist to help my clinical practice?




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## THE GOOD NEWS

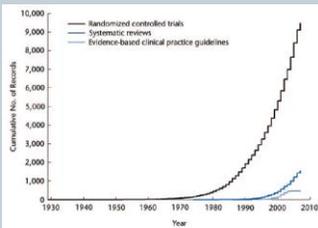


Figure 2. Cumulative number of randomized controlled trials, systematic reviews, and evidence-based clinical practice guidelines in physical therapy, by year, at the time of data analysis (September 3, 2007).

Christopher G Maher, Anne M Moseley, Cathie Sherrington, Mark R Elkins, Robert D Herbert

Physical Therapy Volume 88 Number 9

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## THE BAD NEWS

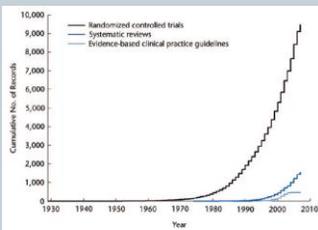


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Physical Therapy Volume 88 Number 9

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## 4 BASIC TYPES OF CLINICAL EVIDENCE

- **Diagnosis**
  - Accuracy & precision of diagnostic tests including the history and physical examination
- **Prognosis**
  - Power of prognostic markers
- **Therapy**
  - Efficacy of therapeutic, rehabilitative, and preventive regimens
- **Harm**
  - Potential for harm with our treatments

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## DIAGNOSIS



Which test is more likely to give me an accurate diagnosis?  
 How accurate is a positive test?  
 How accurate is a negative test?

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## DIAGNOSIS REQUIRES UNDERSTANDING PROBABILITY STATISTICS

- Sensitivity (with 95% CI)
- Specificity (with 95% CI)
- Likelihood ratios
  - +LR (with 95% CI)
  - -LR (with 95% CI)

**SnNout**  
 HIGH sensitivity  
 Negative  
 Rules OUT

**SpPin**  
 HIGH specificity  
 Positive  
 Rules IN

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## DIAGNOSIS RESEARCH REQUIRES AN INTENT

- Rule in a condition

- To provide more effective treatment



Shoulder anterior instability

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## ANTERIOR INSTABILITY

- Using apprehension (not pain) as + sign



Test	Sensitivity	Specificity	Positive Likelihood Ratio	Negative Likelihood Ratio
Farber et al (2006) Apprehension test	72%	96%	20.2	0.29
Farber et al (2006) Relocation test	81%	92%	10.4	0.20
Speer et al (1994) Relocation test	67%	99%	67	0.33
Lo et al (2004) – pain or app (anterior release)	64%	99%	58.6	0.37
Gross & Distefano (1997) - pain (anterior release)	92%	89%	8.3	0.09

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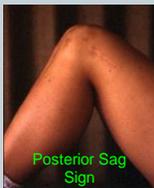
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## POSTERIOR CRUCIATE LIGAMENT TEAR

- Rubenstein et al, Am J Sports Med, 1995
- Performed multiple clinical tests for PCL laxity in 39 patients (78 knees), 19 with a torn PCL
- Gold standard was MRI



Posterior Sag Sign



Posterior drawer test

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## POSTERIOR CRUCIATE LIGAMENT TEAR

Test	Sensitivity	Specificity	Positive Likelihood Ratio	Negative Likelihood Ratio
Posterior drawer	90%	99%	90.0	0.10
Posterior sag sign	79%	100%	79.0	0.21
Quadriceps active drawer	54%	97%	18.0	0.47
Reverse pivot shift	26%	95%	5.2	0.78
KT-1000	86%	94%	14.3	0.15

- All tests had higher specificity than sensitivity, therefore each is better as a rule in test
- The posterior drawer test has a high +LR, and small -LR, making it an excellent diagnostic test

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## CPR FOR DIAGNOSIS OF CERVICAL RADICULOPATHY

- Upper limb tension test A
- Involved C-spine rotation < 60°
- Distraction test
- Spurling test A



Criteria for a Positive Test	Sn 95 CI	Sp 95 CI	LR+ 95 CI	Post-test Probability
Two positive tests	0.39 (0.16-0.61)	0.56 (0.43-0.68)	0.88 (1.5-2.5)	21%
Three positive tests	0.39 (0.16-0.61)	0.94 (0.88-1.0)	6.1 (2.0-18.6)	65%
All four tests positive	0.24 (0.05-0.43)	0.99 (0.97-1.0)	30.3 (1.7-538.2) *	90%

Wainner RS, Fritz JM, Irgang JJ, Boninger ML, Delitto A, Allison S. Reliability and diagnostic accuracy of the clinical examination and patient self-report measures for cervical radiculopathy. *Spine*. 2003 Jan 1;28(1):52-62.

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## HAWKINS KENNEDY

- Tendinitis

Test	Sensitivity	Specificity	Positive Likelihood Ratio	Negative Likelihood Ratio
Calis et al (2000) (Stage 1)	95.2%	30.7%	1.37	0.16
MacDonald et al (2000) (not stated)	87.5%	42.6%	1.53 (1.17, 1.99)	0.29 (0.10, 0.88)
Park et al (2005) (Any severity)	71.5%	66.3%	2.12	0.43




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## NEER (IMPINGEMENT)

### ■ Tendinitis

Test	Sensitivity	Specificity	Positive Likelihood Ratio	Negative Likelihood Ratio
Callis et al (2000) (Stage 1)	71.4%	30.7%	1.03	0.93
MacDonald et al (2000) (not stated)	83.3%	50.8%	1.69 1.24, 2.31	0.33 0.13, 0.83
Park et al (2005) (Any severity)	68.0%	68.7%	2.19	0.47




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## IMPINGEMENT

### ■ Item cluster for subacromial impingement

- Positive Hawkins-Kennedy test
- Painful arc (60-120 degrees) during active shoulder elevation
- Positive (pain and/or weakness) with infraspinatus test: resisted ER with arm along the body
  - All 3 positive: +LR of 10.56
  - If 2 of 3 positive: +LR of 5.03
  - If all 3 negative: -LR of .17

Park et al, J Bone Joint Surg, 2005

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## IMPINGEMENT

### ■ Item cluster for subacromial impingement

- Hawkins-Kennedy test: +LR 1.63 -LR .61
  - Neer impingement test: +LR 1.76 -LR .35
  - Painful arc: +LR 2.25 -LR .38
  - Empty can (Jobe): +LR 3.90 -LR .57
  - External rotation strength: +LR 4.39 -LR .50
- 3 or more positive test: +LR of 2.93  
 ■ Less than 3 positive tests: -LR of .34



Michener et al, 2009

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## OTHER DIAGNOSTIC PARADIGMS



- Classification systems
  - Low back pain – treatment based classification
  - Low back pain – movement impairment
  - ???
- Diagnosis ... but with impairment qualifiers
  - Patellofemoral joint pain, associated with
    - Hip weakness
    - Excessive foot pronation
  - Shoulder pain, associated with
    - Scapular dyskinesia

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## PROGNOSIS



- Physical Therapy Prognosis
  - What are my odds of getting better with conservative care?
  - How much time is needed for recovery of this injury given the offered treatment?
  - What are my chance of reinjury?
  - What prognostic factor predicts successful treatment?

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## JULES ROTHSTEIN

- "As physical therapists, not only do we need to know our literature on prognosis, but we need to *acquire additional evidence*, particularly when we want to change prognoses through the use of preventive intervention."
- "The dictionary fails to note that prognosis also is often what establishes (and enhances) a health care professional's credibility. As a young physical therapist, thanks to my ignorance and the lack of a body of published data, I usually would offer a two-word prognosis: "**It depends.**" If a patient asked when to expect full range of motion, I might say, "**It depends.**" If a persistent patient asked what it depended on, again I might deliver sage wisdom: "**It depends on a lot of things.**" Only the patient's persistence determined how long I was allowed to sputter ambiguously."

Rothstein JM. What Will Be, Won't Necessarily Be (Editorial). Physical Therapy 84(3), March 2004.

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## WHO RESPONDS TO TREATMENT?

**Predictors of Response to Physical Therapy Intervention in Patients With Primary Hip Osteoarthritis**

Alexis A. Wright, Chad E. Cook, Timothy W. Flynn, G. David Baxter, J. Haxby Abbott

Physical therapy intervention defined as exercises and manual therapy

Physical Therapy Volume 91 Number 4 April 2011




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## CONSERVATIVE MANAGEMENT OF HIP OA?

- 5 predictors
  - Unilateral hip pain
  - Age less or equal to 58 years
  - Duration of symptoms less or equal to 1 year
  - Pain of greater or equal to 6/10 on a numeric pain rating scale
  - 40-m self-paced walk test time of less than or equal to 25.9 seconds





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## CONSERVATIVE MANAGEMENT OF HIP OA?

**Table 3.**  
Number of Participants Receiving Physical Therapy in the Success and Nonsuccess Groups Who Were Positive for Each Predictor Variable<sup>a</sup>

No. of Predictor Variables Present	No. of Participants in the Physical Therapy Success Group	No. of Participants in the Physical Therapy Nonsuccess Group
≥4	1 (4.5%)	0 (0%)
≥3	9 (40.9%)	0 (0%)
≥2	21 (95.5%)	11 (23.9%)
≥1	22 (100%)	36 (78.3%)
0	0 (0%)	10 (21.7%)

<sup>a</sup> The 5 variables forming the multivariate logistic regression model were: (1) unilateral hip pain, (2) age of ≤58 years, (3) pain of ≥6/10, (4) 40-m SPWT score of ≤25.9 seconds, and (5) duration of symptoms of ≤1 year.

22 of 68 participants (32%) were considered to have success

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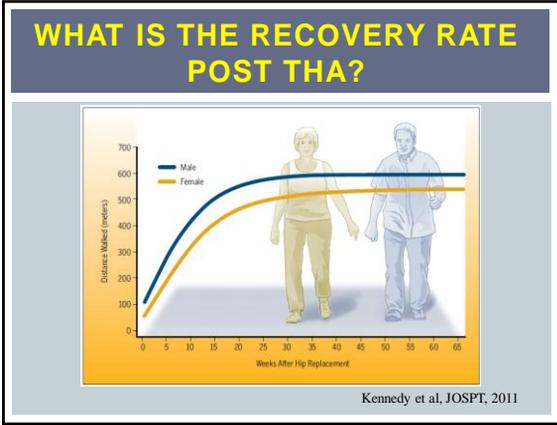
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### WHO REQUIRES ACL RECONSTRUCTION POST ACL TEAR?

HÅVARD MOKSNES, PT<sup>1</sup> • LYNN SHYDER-MACKLER, PT, ScD<sup>2</sup> • MAY ARNA RISBERG, PT, PhD<sup>3</sup>

Individuals With an Anterior Cruciate Ligament-Deficient Knee Classified as Noncopers May Be Candidates for Nonsurgical Rehabilitation

CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECTS AT SCREENING AND 1-YEAR FOLLOW-UP AFTER NONOPERATIVE TREATMENT

Potential Copers at Screening Examination	Yun Copers at 1-Year Follow-up		
	Yes	No	Total
Yes	15	10	25
No	19	8	27
Total	34	18	52

JOSPT 2008

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### HAMSTRING INJURIES: RECOVERY TIME?

	High Speed Running	Extreme Stretch
Straight leg raise deficit*	40%	20%
Knee flexion strength deficit*	60%	20%
Pain	Moderate	Minor
Location of maximum pain**	12 cm	2 cm
Length of painful area	11 cm	5 cm

Biceps femoris      Semi-membranosus

\* Compared to the other side  
\*\* Distance from the ischial tuberosity

Asking et al, AJSM 2007

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## HAMSTRING INJURIES: RECOVERY TIME?

- Increased recovery time if:
  - > 1 day needed to walk pain-free following injury
    - More likely (adjusted odds ratio [AOR] 4.0; 95% CI: 1.3, 12.6) to take longer than 3 weeks to return to competition
  - History of hamstring injury
    - Elevated risk of a delayed return to competition (AOR, 4.2; 95% CI: 1.0, 18.0)

Warren et al, BJSM 2010

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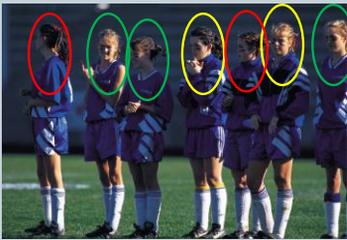
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## Who is at risk for ACL injury?



Powers, 2010

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## WHO WILL DO WELL POST WHIPLASH?

- 50% of people will continue to have problems at 12 months

"I know the moment they walk into the clinic..."



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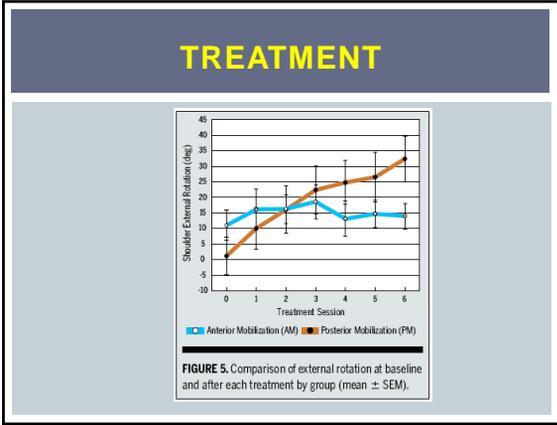
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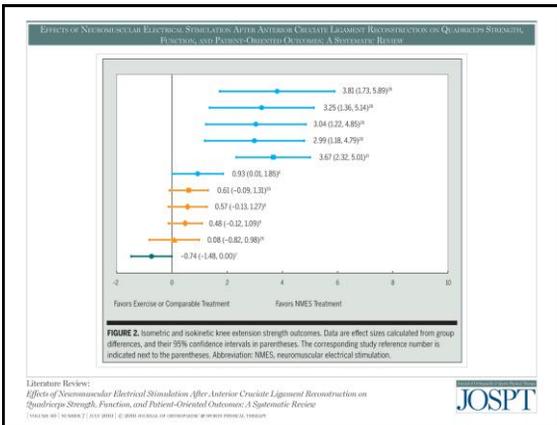
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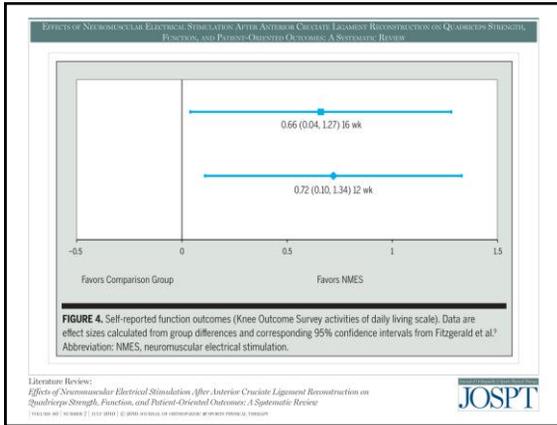
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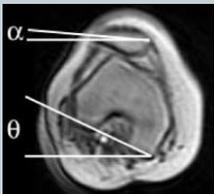
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## MECHANISTIC STUDIES

Not only understanding **IF** it works but **WHY** it works!!

Powers et al, JOSPT, 2003

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## HARM

- Case reports
- Need to be systematically reported along with results of all diagnostic and intervention studies

LISA C. CARLESSO, PT, MS<sup>2</sup> • JOY C. MACDERMID, PT, PhD<sup>3</sup> • LINA P. SANTAGUIDA, PT, PhD<sup>3</sup>

### Standardization of Adverse Event Terminology and Reporting in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy: Application to the Cervical Spine

Carlesso et al, JOSPT, 2010

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**PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER**



A Potential Example for the Treatment  
of Acute Low Back Pain

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**PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER**

**A Clinical Prediction Rule for Classifying Patients with Low Back Pain Who Demonstrate Short-Term Improvement With Spinal Manipulation**



- Duration of symptoms < 16 days
- FABQ work subscale 18 or less
- Symptoms not distal to the knee
- At least one hip internal rotation PROM > 35°
- Hypomobility at one or more lumbar levels with spring testing

Flynn et al, Spine, 2002

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**PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER**

**A Clinical Prediction Rule To Identify Patients with Low Back Pain Most Likely To Benefit from Spinal Manipulation: A Validation Study**

Maj John D. Childs, PhD, PT; Julie M. Fritz, PhD, PT; Timothy W. Flynn, PhD, PT; James J. Irngang, PhD, PT; Maj Kevin K. Johnson, PT; Maj Guy R. Majkowski, PT; and Anthony Delitto, PhD, PT

Annals of Internal Medicine, 2004

	Fits the Prediction Rule	Does Not Fit the Rule
Manipulation Treatment Group	MATCH	Unmatched
Exercise Treatment Group	Unmatched	Unmatched

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## PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Group	Baseline	1-week	4-weeks	6-months
CPR (manip) - Green	45	15	10	10
CPR (manip) - Purple	40	30	25	20
CPR (exercise) - Red	40	35	25	20
CPR (exercise) - Blue	40	35	30	25

Childs et al, Ann Int Med, 2004

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## PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER FOR PATIENTS AND SOCIETY

- **Outcome at 6 months**
- Taken medication in last week? 27.8% 43.8%
- Currently seeking treatment? 11.1% 43.8%
- Missed work in last 6 weeks? 5.6% 24.0%

Childs et al, Ann Int Med, 2004

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## PRACTITIONERS AND THE EVIDENCE

- Study of 321 PTs in England & Australia
- “The basis of over 90% of each group’s choice of treatment interventions reflected **what was taught during their initial training.**”
- “Research literature ranked least in importance as a basis for choosing techniques, and review articles fared little better.”

Turner P, Whitfield TW. Physiotherapists’ use of evidence based practice: a cross-national study. *Physiother Res Int* 1997;2(1):17-29

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## PRACTITIONERS AND THE EVIDENCE

Integration of:

- best research evidence
- clinical expertise
- patient values



**NOT** Integration of:

- best research evidence
- clinical expertise
- patient values

Childs et al, JOSPT, April 2012

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## DELIVERY AND ACCESS




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Journal of  
Orthopaedic  
& Sports  
Physical  
Therapy

JOSPT The Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy is the official journal of the American Physical Therapy Association's Orthopaedic Section and Sports Physical Therapy Section.

**APTA** **SPTS**

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

The following professional organizations currently provide online access to JOSPT for their members:





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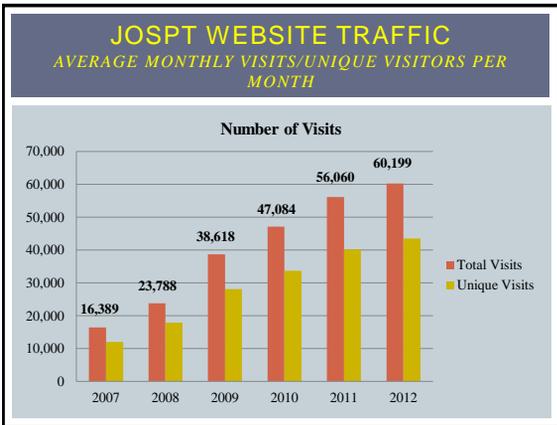
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### PHYSICAL THERAPY IMPACT

Impact factor 2.538

- Rehabilitation (5 of 43)
- Orthopaedics (9 of 61)
- Sports (11 of 81)




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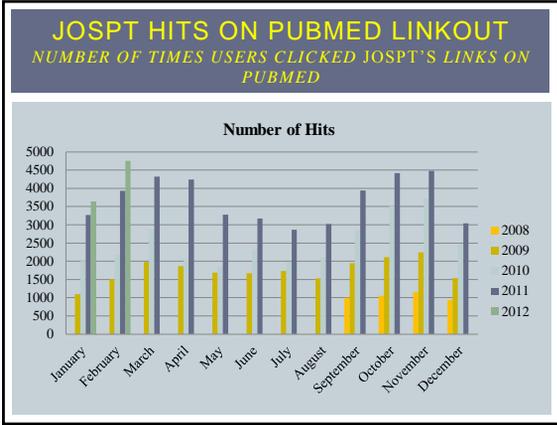
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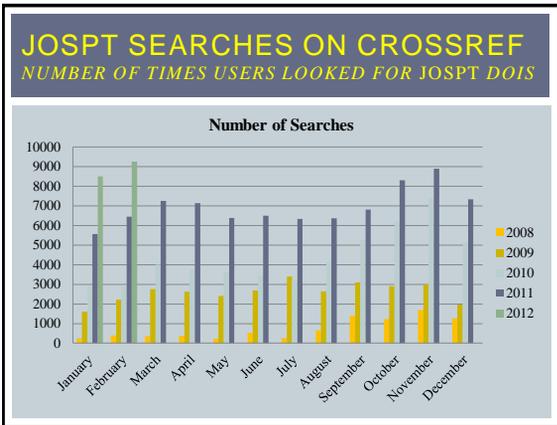
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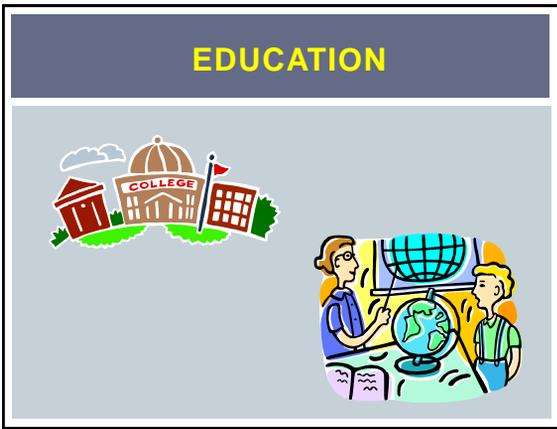
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