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## The Role of Occupational Therapy with People Living with Epilepsy: A Scoping Review

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# The Role of Occupational Therapy with People Living with Epilepsy: A Scoping Review

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## BACKGROUND

Epilepsy affects 65 million people globally. While epilepsies presents differently among individuals, many experience safety concerns with activities of daily living as well as instrumental activities of daily living such as, social engagement, community mobility, work, and education. Because epilepsy can adversely impact occupation, occupational therapy (OT) practitioners should be prepared to address the needs of this population. While there is some literature related to OT and the care of people with epilepsy, it is very limited.

## PROBLEM

The role of OT with people living with epilepsy has not been defined or systematically reviewed in the literature, thus leaving room for error when occupational therapists treat clients with epilepsy.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this capstone project is to conduct a scoping review of the literature to define the role OT with people living with epilepsy.

## METHODS

This study utilized the scoping review methodology as outlined by Peters et al. (2015) and Arksey & O' Malley (2005) consisting of 5 steps:

### 1. Identify a Research Question

**What are the behaviors of OT practitioners that define the role of OT when treating patients with epilepsy?**

### 2. Identify Relevant Studies

- This scoping review used search engine EBSCOhost and searched databases CINAHL Complete, Medline, OpenDissertations, and APA Psych Info using search terms "occupational therapy and epilepsy"

### 3. Select Studies

#### Inclusion Criteria

- Must address OT interventions with people living with epilepsy
- Published from 2005-2020, including dissertation abstracts
- All ages, races, and genders

#### Exclusion Criteria

- Does not meet inclusion criteria
- Not published in English language
- 232 articles screened, 12 included**

### 4. Chart Data

- Used a Summary Table

### 5. Collate, Summarize, and Report Results

References:



## RESULTS

### Assessment:

- Assessments were used primarily during the initial evaluation process, with 3 specific assessments mentioned in just 2 of the 12 articles:
  - Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (COPM)**
  - Scales of Independent Behaviors-Revised (SIB-R)**
  - Functional Independence Measure (FIM)**

### Intervention:

- Intervention was included in 12 of 12 articles with different intervention types depending on the area of occupation discussed in the study.

### Intervention Types:

- Occupation (n = 3)**
- Activities (n = 3)**
- Environmental Modifications (n = 1)**
- Self-Regulation (n = 1)**
- Education (n = 1)**
- Training (n = 1)**
- Advocacy (n = 1)**
- Self-Advocacy (n = 1)**

## DISCUSSION

While several articles mentioned OT as a potential and necessary service for this population, there was little evidence as to what OT practitioners are currently doing, as shown by the articles that were included in this scoping review. The overall literature acknowledges the immeasurable benefit of OT services due to its unique scope aimed towards increasing independence through meaningful occupation. The development of OT treatment guideline or manualized interventions could improve OT intervention with this population. Furthermore, educating therapists of the different presentations of seizures through Seizure First Aid courses to provide better understanding to the individuals experiences.