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## **Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on physiotherapy services in India: A survey**

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# **IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICES IN INDIA: A SURVEY**

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** The COVID-19 pandemic has emerged as a major crisis which has affected numerous professions especially the health care services. Physiotherapy services are essential services playing an important part in rehabilitation of patients with or without COVID. This survey is aimed at determining the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on physiotherapy services across various domains.

**Methods:** A self-made questionnaire was prepared for the web-based survey. Physiotherapists working across India were invited to participate with an electronic link which was circulated through E-mails or social media.

**Results:** 312 responses were received and after screening for exclusion 250 physiotherapists were included in the study and most of them (36.40%) were working in a multispeciality hospital. Majority of the physiotherapists (91.60%) experienced an interruption in their work due to the pandemic and they altered the frequency of the treatments by reducing the number of sessions (53.20%). Most used measures for infection control were hand washing (95.2%) and masks (95.6%). Virtual treatments were given by 52.6% of physiotherapists. The pandemic placed various stresses on the physiotherapists and 78% also experienced a decline in their salary.

**Conclusion:** This survey showed that majority of the physiotherapists experienced an interruption in their profession during the COVID-19 pandemic. Physiotherapists have brought about a reduction in their sessions. The awareness of physiotherapy in respiratory care has improved and the therapists have started treating patients via newer delivery models like tele-rehab.