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Exploring clients' perspectives of teleoccupational therapy

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Abstract

Background/aim- Following the emergence of COVID-19, teletherapy became popular among pediatric occupational therapists as a way to keep services running during the pandemic. In order for services to be continued, it is important to understand the viewpoints of clients who are utilizing these services. So, the goal of this study was to find out what clients thought of pediatric occupational teletherapy.

Methods- A descriptive qualitative research design was used to explore the perspectives of clients who were using pediatric occupational teletherapy services. For conducting this study, semi-structured telephonic interviews were conducted with five participants. These interviews were transcribed verbatim and then analyzed using a thematic analysis process.

Results- After coding and collating of these codes, three themes were identified including (1) Transition to online: challenges faced; (2) Parent perspectives and children's response; (3) Thoughts on payment and continuation of teletherapy.

Conclusion- Teletherapy was beneficial in educating and empowering parents, but it fell short of purposefully engaging children during therapy sessions, according to parents' perspectives. Involvement and participation in teletherapy sessions appear to be influenced by the children's age and competence. While teletherapy helped bridge the gap between sessions under lockdown, it couldn't totally replace in-person sessions.

Keywords- Telerehabilitation, Parent satisfaction, Child participation