



University of St Augustine for Health Sciences  
SOAR @ USA

---

Virtual OTD Capstone Symposium, Summer  
2021

OTD Capstone Symposia

---

Summer 8-12-2021

## An Occupational Therapy Practice Guide for Sport-Related Concussion in Student Athletes

Jenny Park

Steven M. Gerardi

Mary Ann Smith

Follow this and additional works at: <https://soar.usa.edu/otdcapstonessummer2021>

 Part of the [Neurology Commons](#), [Occupational Therapy Commons](#), and the [Sports Sciences Commons](#)

---

# An Occupational Therapy Practice Guide for Sport-Related Concussion in Student Athletes

Jenny Park, Steven M. Gerardi, PhD, OTD, MSS, OTR, and Mary Smith, PhD, OTR, RYT

## Background

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC], 2003) reported that of roughly 1.7 million traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) that occur each year in the United States, sports-related injuries account for nearly 20%. The inability to perform daily tasks due to concussion sequelae can often result in decreased participation, difficulty with school performance, and overall decline in quality of life (DeMatteo et al., 2018). Common practice in concussion management consists of return to activity, sport, and school, which highlights the significance of getting individuals back to engaging in all areas of their lives; and this is consistent with OT's emphasis on participation.

## Problem

**The limited literature available on OT intervention for athletes with sport-related concussion (SRC), combined with the absence of clear practice guidelines on OT intervention for people with concussions, makes it difficult for OT practitioners to provide appropriate OT services to concussed athletes.**

## Purpose

**To develop a practice guide on OT intervention for athletes following concussion.**

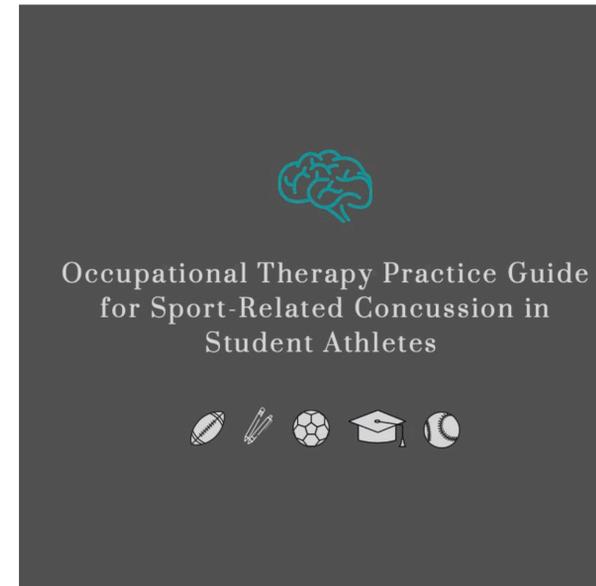
**Intent** - To inform practitioners on:

- What to assess in concussed athletes,
- The impact of SRC on function,
- Guidance to address occupational participation and performance problems that result from SRC.

## Methods

- Theoretical Framework
  - The Person-Environment-Occupation-Performance Model (PEOP)
- Review of the Literature
  - risk factors
  - concussion sequelae
  - attitudes and behaviors
  - current protocols/guidelines
  - assessments/interventions
- Experiential Components
  - OneRehab
  - Continuing education webinars and videos
  - Scholarly articles

## Practice Guide



## Guide Components

- Executive Summary
- Background
- Athletes & Concussion
- Risk Factors
- Sequelae
- Underreporting Amongst Athletes
- Current Protocols
- Role of Occupational Therapy
  - OT scope of practice
  - PEOP Model
  - Evaluation/Assessments
  - Interventions
- Case Study
- Conclusion

## Discussion

- Although more research is warranted, the current literature does reveal that OT intervention is beneficial for improving several client factors among individuals with concussions.
- The developed **OT practice guide** informs OT practitioners of the contribution of OT in support of enhancing the occupational performance of athletes with concussions.
- This capstone project also highlights the importance of the role of OT for athletes with concussion and provides material support to OT practice.

### References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2003). *Report to congress on mild traumatic brain injury in the united states: Steps to prevent a serious public health problem*. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. <https://www.cdc.gov/traumaticbraininjury/pdf/mtbireport-a.pdf>

DeMatteo, C., Reed, N., & Stazyk, K. (2018). The role of the occupational therapist in concussion management. *Sports Concussion: A complete guide to recovery and management*. (pp. 201–217). essay, CRC PRESS.