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Quality of Life for Pediatric Prosthetic Users

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BACKGROUND

- Children with limb loss fall into a category of chronic physical disability which is qualification for being a vulnerable and at risk population.
- Pediatric amputees are vulnerable to functional challenges resulting in adverse impacts on their participation and performance of life activities due to their obvious structural differences (Eshraghi et al., 2018).
- A key factor to occupational participation, or involvement in life situations, is the significance of the child's preferences, interests, and motivations for participation. This directly impacts their quality of life (Maciver et al., 2019).
- Psychological well-being has a substantial effect on how they participate in and perform their daily life activities.
- Important to recognize and address the ongoing psychological challenges that children with limb loss may face aside from the physical and functional challenges (Eshragh et al., 2018).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to identify what impact, if any, pediatric prosthetic users' occupational participation has on their quality of life.

This project hopes to answer the following research questions:

- Is there an impact on the engagement in meaningful everyday activities for children with prosthetic limbs, considering the functional, emotional, and social challenges they might encounter?
- Does their level of engagement in meaningful everyday activities have an impact on their quality of life?
- How does the care they receive influence their quality of life?

METHODS

- Mixed method research study using assessment measures and interviews.
- Participants: 8 families {child with a prosthetic device and their primary caregiver}
- All assessments consisted of child and parent reports. Interviews conducted with parents. Interviews were analyzed using Braun and Clark (2006) thematic analysis.

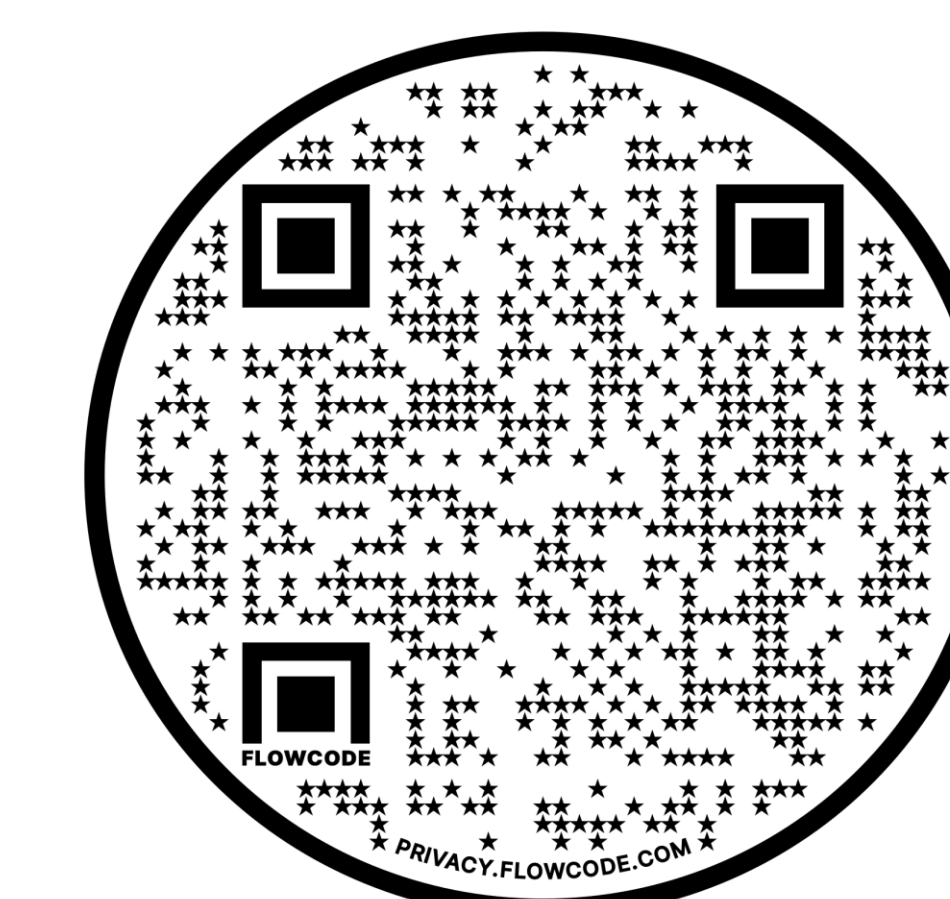
RESULTS

Themes	Quotes
Lack of Desired and Valuable Community	<p>“Yeah, we don't have a local community of kids that have prosthetics.”</p> <p>“I think it would be important for him to see someone else that has the same condition or similar. We have no exposure to that at all.”</p> <p>“I can't even tell you like how incredibly valuable and life-changing that is for these kids, it's huge.”</p>
Navigating Systemic Issues with Healthcare System Makes Treatment Process Harder	<p>“Every specific attachment is an insurance fight. It's a different request.”</p> <p>“Because of the distance, we have challenges. You know it makes everything harder, it takes more energy”</p>
Psychological Impact on Increased Awareness of Physical Differences with Aging	<p>“She's a little more aware of her difference right now. I don't think she's ever really considered there to be any reason why she is not 100% the same [until recently].”</p> <p>“If it's something that she has to participate in where people might notice, then she's not going to. She'll try to find a way to either get out of it or for it not to be seen.”</p>
Importance of Fit for Engagement in Specific Occupations	<p>“The main problem we had with her was getting something to fit.”</p> <p>“People don't understand about these prosthesis that they're task specific.”</p>
Inconsistency of Medical Guidance and Resources	<p>“Yeah, and it's out there you just have to find how to get there. It's not readily available. Like there was not a list. I wish that when we had her first x-rays, and they were like wow she's missing half her leg, they offered here you can call these people and talk to them. But we had to go find it.”</p>

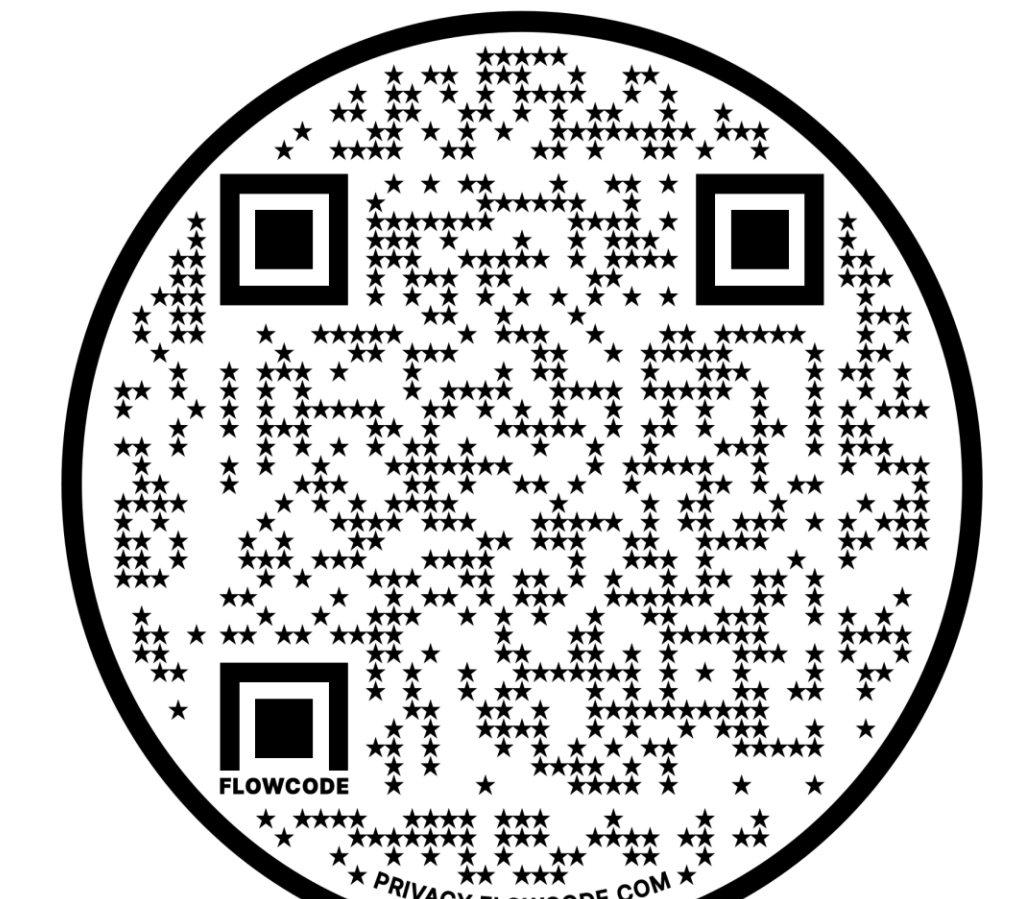
Assessment	Results
PedsQL™	Children and Parent total scores fall within the average QoL range.
PPCI	The most utilized strategies were Seeks Social Support, Distraction, Catastrophizing/Helplessness
COSA	Mean POMP Score: 74.5%. Areas of greatest challenge associated with social-emotional factors or physical task participation.
SCOPE	Most challenging items: responses to transitions, communication and interaction skills, and motor skills.

DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS

- Pediatric prosthetic users' occupational participation is directly related to their physical functioning, and their physical functioning is dependent on the fit and function of their prosthetic limb.
- Pediatric prosthetic users have average QoL but experience psychosocial / emotional challenges that are not addressed in their regular medical treatments.
- Most parents are unfamiliar with what OT is and what it could offer their child.
- There is a need for increased advocacy of OT's holistic role in treatment of pediatric prosthetic users.



Scan for tables and figures of assessment data



Scan for references

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