Perceived Confidence of DPT Students with Telehealth to Examine Neurologic Patients during COVID 19 Pandemic

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**Conclusions**

Student’s level of confidence was significantly lower before first-time participation in telehealth in both courses.

Students showed greater perceived confidence in their ability to complete a neurological examination and treatment using telehealth as a result of the two experiences.

**Clinical Relevance**

- This use of telehealth is novel within DPT programs and may provide educators with additional opportunities to facilitate patient integration.
- In addition, telehealth may increase students’ self-confidence in completing a neurological examination and treatment which is linked to a positive effect on student’s success.

**References**


**Methods**

90 DPT students (48.7% male)

NM1 = 48 students and NM2 = 42

Assessment tools:
- Physiotherapy Self-Efficacy survey (PSE)
- Focused questionnaire

Students were surveyed pre and post the telehealth experience to assess their perceived confidence.

**Results**

Each participant completed a telehealth session in either neuromuscular course. Significantly higher total mean scores in the PSE and in the focus questionnaire at the end of telehealth experience were noted in both courses (Graph 1 and 2). A two-way ANOVA results showed that the difference between pre and post surveys does not depend on the course (NM1 and NM2).

Questions related to “properly perform a treatment” (Q3) and “how to progress intervention” (Q5) accounted for the strongest difference between the baseline and post survey in the PSE. In the focus questionnaire, students perceived more confidence in developing a plan of care after the second telehealth experience (Q2 and Q5).

**Purpose**

To investigate student perceived confidence in using telehealth during COVID-19 pandemic to examine and treat neurological patients in the neuromuscular courses (NM1 and NM2).

For this study, the data was based on the primary questions: (1) is there a difference in confidence in the examination, assessment and treatment of patients with a neurological condition as a result of using telehealth? and (2) if so, what specific components differentiate confidence as a result of the telehealth experience?