DESCRIPTION

The *Journal of Hand Therapy* is designed for hand therapists, occupational and physical therapists, and other hand specialists involved in the rehabilitation of disabling hand problems. The Journal functions as a source of education and information by publishing scientific and clinical articles. Regular features include original reports, clinical reviews, case studies, editorials, and book reviews.

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INTRODUCTION

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Manuscript categories for submission include: Clinical/Basic Research Studies, Case-Reports, Short Reports (Cross-cultural Translation, Literature Review (invited-only) Practice Forum and Letters to the Editor (published online only).

Inquiries for the Editor-in-Chief should be made to: Joy MacDermid, PT, PhD at editor.macdermid@gmail.com.

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Authors should specific terminology when naming their study design in the abstract and methods. Some common study designs are listed below and should be used where applicable. We recognize that this list is not all-inclusive and that more appropriate descriptors might be suitable for some studies. Authors are encouraged to pick the most appropriate study design descriptors for their study. These suggestions are merely provided as a means of encouraging consistency, where it would be both useful and informative. The purpose of the research and the study design should be listed. Literature Synthesis: formal structured literature synthesis studies can be described in terms of the specific type: Systemic Review, Scoping Reviews, Reviews of Reviews (Overviews or Umbrella Reviews), Meta-analyses and others. Primary Clinical Studies can include a variety of designs to address research questions. The purpose of the research can be listed as: Descriptive, clinical measurement, epidemiology, etiology, natural history, prognosis, diagnosis, effectiveness, harm, economics or implementation.
Examples of study design include:

**Randomized Clinical/Controlled Trial:** Patients are enrolled at a relevant baseline and allocated to different intervention arms based on a random concealed process; outcomes are ascertained prospectively. Where specific variants were used please state the subtype—such as Cross-over, Factorial, Equivalence, Non-inferiority, Expertise-based etc.

**Prospective Cohort:** a longitudinal study where subgroups of patients are enrolled and research questions defined at a relevant baseline point (prior to when outcomes occur); patients are followed forward in time for outcomes ascertainment. For treatment studies, at least 2 groups are defined at baseline; in prognostic studies, potential predictors are collected at baseline

**Retrospective Cohort:** a longitudinal study where subgroups of patients are involved in a prospective data collection but the research questions (and variables) were defined retrospectively; treatment groups or prognostic factors may have been defined after data collections was initiated e.g. database research

**Case-Control:** a longitudinal study where subgroups of patients are identified/enrolled after outcomes have been ascertained and data are collected retrospectively (recall or pre-existing data) on the treatment or prognostic factors of interest.

**Cross-sectional:** Study data are collected at a single time point.

**N-of-1:** A single patient is enrolled at a relevant baseline and allocated to cross-over different intervention arms based on a random concealed process; outcomes are ascertained prospectively.

**Case Series:** Data are collected on a single subgroup of patients (no comparison group). This can be cross-sectional or longitudinal.

**Case Report:** Data are collected on a single subject.

**Repeated Case Study:** a formal comparison of 2-5 cases, extending beyond summary data.

Qualitative Study Designs

**Meta-syntheses:** a synthesis of the better quality qualitative studies.

**Grounded Theory:** research that seeks to understand and identify theoretical processes; themes used to develop an understanding and theoretical explanation.

**Case Study:** an in-depth study of an individual lived experience and perspective.

**Descriptive:** Studies that may use qualitative and quantitative method to describe a phenomenon—without intention to develop theory or meaning.

**Ethnography:** the description of the customs of groups or cultures.

**Interpretive Description:** inductive analytic studies designed to understand clinical phenomena with a view to applications

**Mixed-Methods Designs** include both quantitative and qualitative components that seek to address a common or complementary research questions. The components can be conducted concurrently or sequentially to expand, explain or triangulate findings of the other component. The author can explain the approaches using any of the design taxonomies described for mixed methods.

A summary of the questions and design is illustrated in the figure.

Basic science research. This includes mechanistic studies i.e. anatomy, biomechanics, electromyography, physiology. Where applicable the descriptors above may be used. At a minimum author must state whether data collection was observational or randomized and whether data was

**Longitudinal:** collected at multiple time points or **Cross-sectional:** collected on a single occasion.

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Examples:

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