

Assessing Practitioners' Conceptions of Evidence Based Practice (EBP)

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Methods of Assessment

- Health care providers from a variety of disciplines recruited via email
 - PT's, OT's, SLP's, DH's, Nurses, MD's
 - 54 total respondents
- Online survey assessment tool utilized to assess perceptions concerning components of process of EBP
 - Open ended items requiring text responses
 - Responses analyzed qualitatively for content

Steps of Process of EBP

1. Asking focused clinical question
 2. Searching for evidence
 3. Evaluating evidence
 4. Appropriately applying evidence
 5. Evaluating your efforts
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Asking Questions and Searching for Answers

- **Asking focused clinical question**

- Few clinicians able to properly articulate question using PICO format
- Consistent omission of “O” (Outcomes)

- **Searching for evidence**

- Minimal knowledge of online databases of systematic reviews
- Bulk of exposure to “evidence” is thru continuing ed courses
- Minimal indication that they actively engaged in search process for specific questions as they arose

Evaluating and Applying Evidence

- **Evaluating Evidence**

- Inconsistent in identifying strongest sources of evidence
- Focus on evaluating single RCT's
- Minimal mention of databases to locate and evaluate systematic reviews

- **Applying evidence**

- Putting it into action with similar patient population
- Minimal consideration if same patient outcomes

Global Themes

- **Skill in EBP =**

- Having knowledge of existing research vs. skills to seek it out
- Evaluating single research articles from familiar sources or those in clinician's possession

- Little knowledge of **systematic reviews**, meta-analyses or reputable, comprehensive **databases** containing these

- Little evidence that these clinicians regularly attempted to **answer questions as they arose**

Overall Conclusions

- Clinicians responding to this survey had limited knowledge of contemporary conceptions of EBP
- Future efforts to educate both entry level and experienced clinicians necessary
 - Include training in answering imminent question, search skills, strength of evidence,