

Determining functional outcome criteria for wait list



assessment in head and neck cancer



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Background

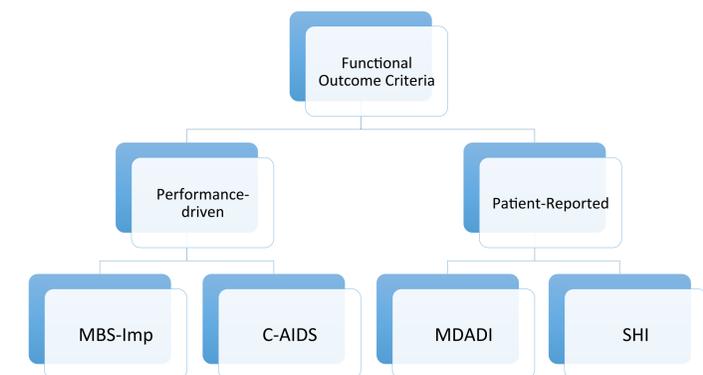
- Treatment for head and neck cancer often results in the loss of critical structures including teeth (Lam-Tang, Rieger, & Wolfaardt, 2008)
- Negative outcomes associated with tooth loss: speech and swallowing problems, malnutrition, social isolation, financial problems, and depression
- Dental implants can greatly improve patient function and quality of life, but patients have to wait for treatment at the Institute for Reconstructive Sciences in Medicine (iRSM)
- Prioritizing patients with wait list assessment tools can minimize risk to patients, reduce economic consequences, and ensure fairness in accessing health care (Cipriano, Chesworth, Anderson, & Zaric, 2008)
- Based on previous work in the area of wait list assessment, the *Jaw Reconstruction Rehabilitation* (JRR) tool was created to help prioritize patients
- Subjective clinical ratings of function by maxillofacial prosthodontists on the JRR tool were not significant predictors of urgency for care
- This was unexpected because functional outcomes have been found to be critically important to patients (Tschiesner et al., 2013)

Question: are patient self-report and performance-based measures of function better indicators of urgency than clinician (maxillofacial prosthodontists) ratings?

Methods

Materials:

- Previously completed JRR forms from 112 patients at the iRSM
- Previously collected measures:



Analyses:

- Multiple regression → predicting patient urgency score
- Factor analysis → tool development

Anticipated Outcomes

- Patient scores on the MBS-Imp and C-AIDS are expected to be more significant predictors of patient urgency than subjective clinical ratings
- Utilization of the results of factor analysis to refine the JRR tool for prioritizing patients according to need

References

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- Lam Tang, J. A., Rieger, J. M., & Wolfaardt, J. F. (2008). A review of functional outcomes related to prosthetic treatment after maxillary and mandibular reconstruction in patients with head and neck cancer. *International Journal of Prosthetics*, 21 (4), 337-354.
- Tschiesner, U., Sabariego, C., Linseisen, E., Becker, S., Stier-Jarmer, M., Cieza, A., & Harreus, U. (2013). Priorities of head and neck cancer patients: a patient survey based on the brief ICF core set for HNC. *Eur Arch Otorhinolaryngol*, 270, 3133-3142.