

Examples of research questions

Systematic reviews

The research questions for this review were:

1. Is therapeutic exercise of benefit in reducing impairment for people who would be expected to consult a physiotherapist?
2. Is therapeutic exercise of benefit in improving activity and increasing societal participation for people who would be expected to consult a physiotherapist?

The research questions for this review were:

1. Is strength training effective, ie, do strengthening interventions increase strength in people who are suffering the effects of acute and chronic stroke?
2. Is strength training harmful, ie, do strengthening interventions increase spasticity after stroke?
3. Is strength training worthwhile, ie, do strengthening interventions improve activity after stroke?

The research questions for this review were:

1. Which models of undergraduate/entry-level clinical education are being used internationally in allied health disciplines (Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Social Work, and Podiatry)?
2. What is the effect and, from the perspective of stakeholders, what are the advantages/disadvantages and recommendations for successful implementation of different models of undergraduate/entry-level clinical education?

Clinical trials

The research questions for this study were:

1. Does eight hours of stretch per day for three months reduce thumb web space contractures in neurological conditions?
2. Are any gains maintained a year after intervention?

The research questions for this study were:

1. Is the Mapleson C circuit more effective than the Laerdal circuit in removing secretions and improving ventilation and gas exchange during manual hyperinflation?
2. Would ventilation and gas exchange revert back to baseline within an hour of intervention?

Experimental studies

The research questions for this study were:

1. What is the relationship between vibration of the chest wall and the resulting chest wall forces, chest wall circumference, intrapleural pressure, and expiratory flow rate?
2. Is the intrapleural pressure during vibration the sum of the intrapleural pressure due to recoil of the lung, chest wall compression, and chest wall oscillation?

The research question for this study was:

1. Does faulty proprioceptive input disrupt the internal model of the body that the brain uses to control movement?

Qualitative studies

The research question for this study was:

What are the characteristics associated with the people who, having undergone a behavioural graded activity program, have successfully integrated the activities into their daily lives?

Observational studies

The research questions for this study were:

1. How much upright mobilisation, particularly uptime, is performed in the first four days following upper abdominal surgery?
2. In what part of the day is the greatest uptime achieved?
3. Is length of stay related to uptime?
4. Is there any difference in uptime in terms of postoperative factors?

The research questions for this study were:

1. What is a clinically-representative maximum force for central PA mobilisations performed using the thumbs on the lower cervical spine?
2. Can students reach this force while maintaining the recommended thumb position of neutral to slight flexion at the IP and MCP joints?
3. What happens at the IP and MCP thumb joints of students who are unable to maintain this position?