

Current Use of Standardized Assessment Instruments

Findings from the ACRM Outcome Measurement Group Assessment Instrument Use Survey

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Objectives

- Gain better understanding of standardized assessment instrument use in rehabilitation
- Identify challenges encountered in current use of instruments
- Obtain feedback to help guide future activities of the ACRM Outcome Measures Networking Group



Methods

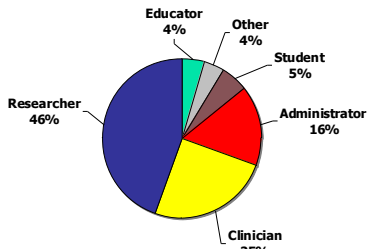
- Target population: ACRM members
- Survey content developed with feedback from colleagues interested in the field of outcomes measurement
- Data collected via web-based questionnaire (administered through SurveyMonkey.com)
- ACRM members informed of questionnaire via email
- 102 survey responses received



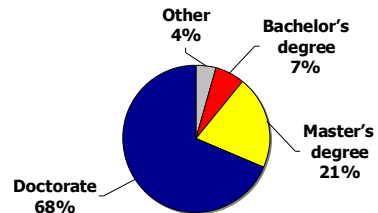
Respondent Characteristics

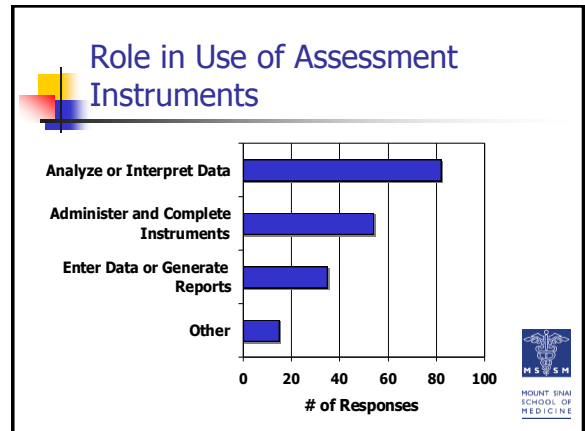
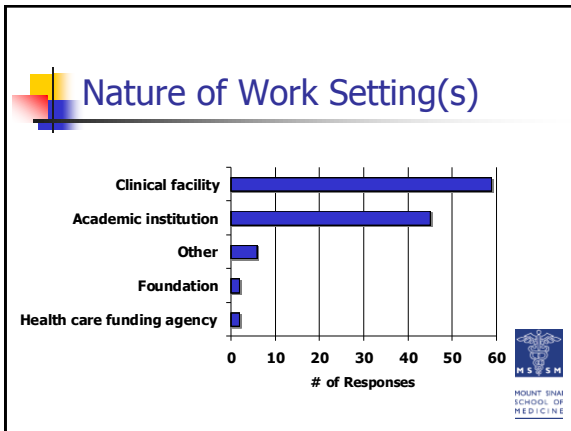
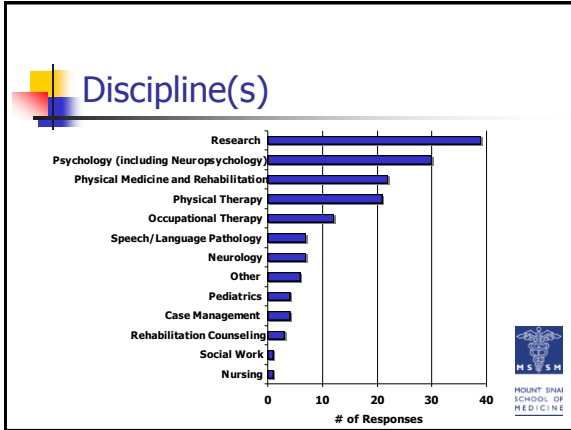


Primary Work Function

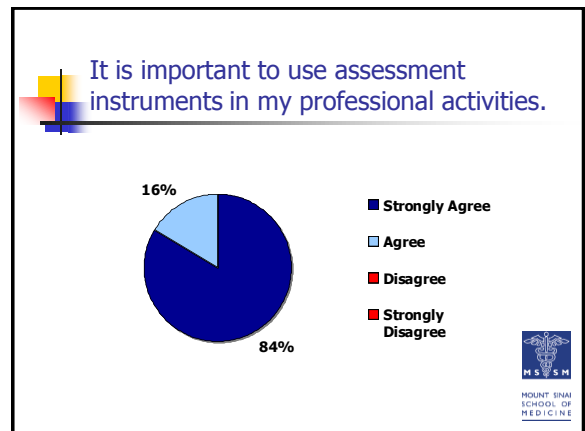


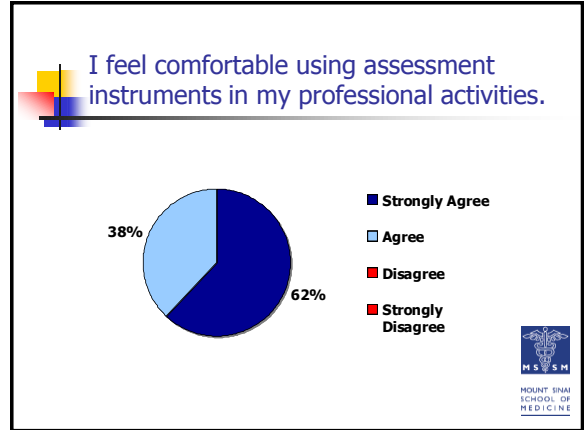
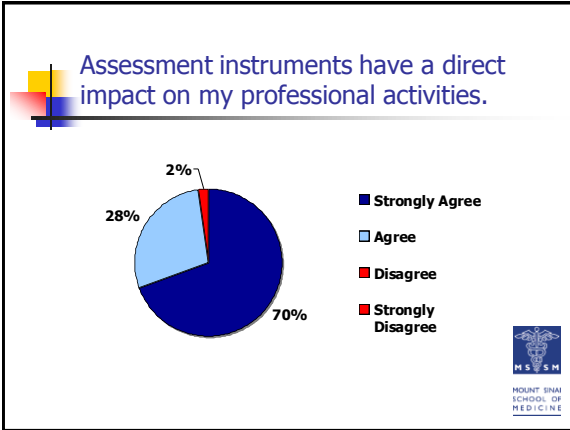
Highest Degree



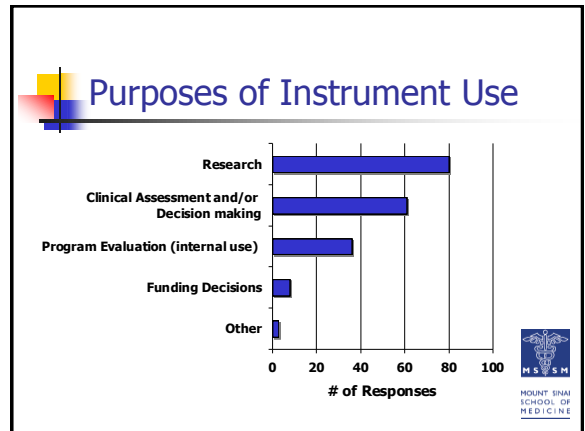


- ### Other Roles Included:
- Creating or developing instruments
 - Selecting instruments for use
 - Applying results to facility or program administration
 - Facilitating use of instruments
 - Training others how to use instruments

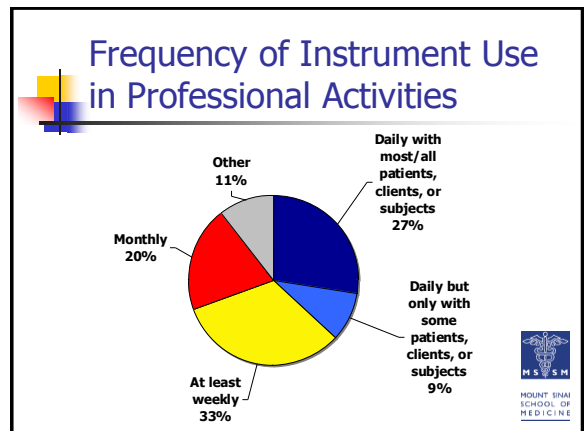




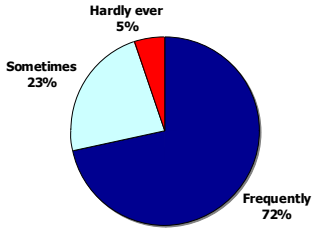
Findings: Nature of Assessment Instrument Use



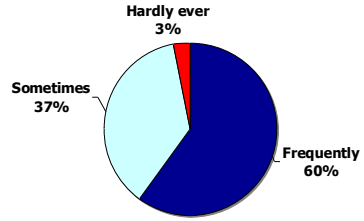
- ### Other Purposes Included:
- Meeting performance and outcomes standards
 - Teaching
 - Marketing
- MS S M
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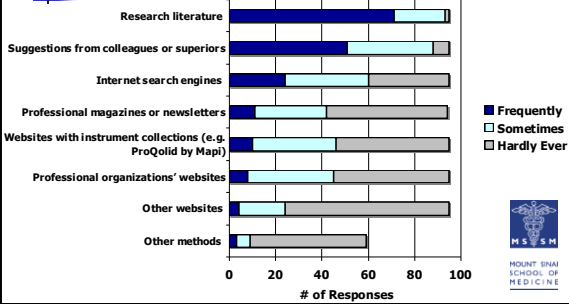
Frequency of Looking at Same Person's Data Over Time



Frequency of Looking at Data Across Patients



Methods for Identifying Instruments - Frequency of Use

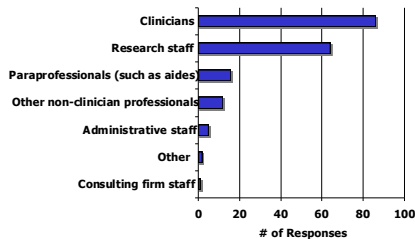


Instrument Identification Methods Included:

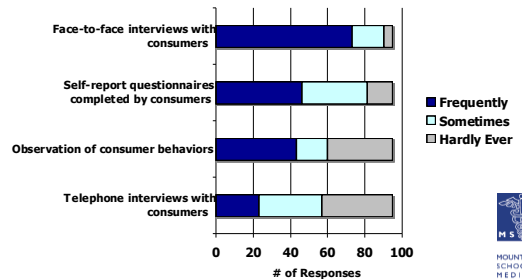
- Websites
 - Center for Outcome Measurement (COMBI)
 - TBI Model Systems
 - TBI Common Data Elements
 - SCI Rehabilitation Evidence (SCIRE)
 - www.strokengine.ca
 - Variety of professional organizations
- Other methods
 - Pennsylvania Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (PARF) Outcomes Database
 - Conferences
 - Textbooks
 - Manuals
 - VA intranet/forums

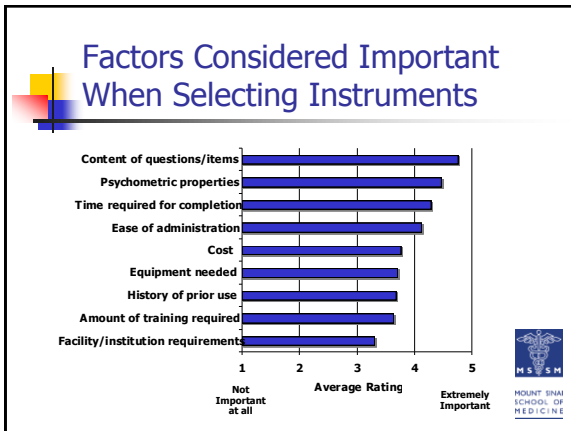
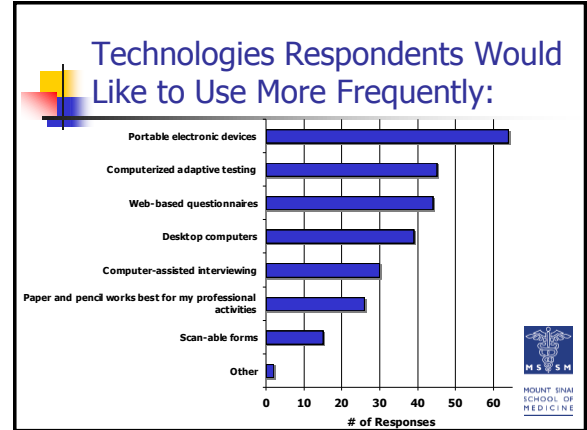
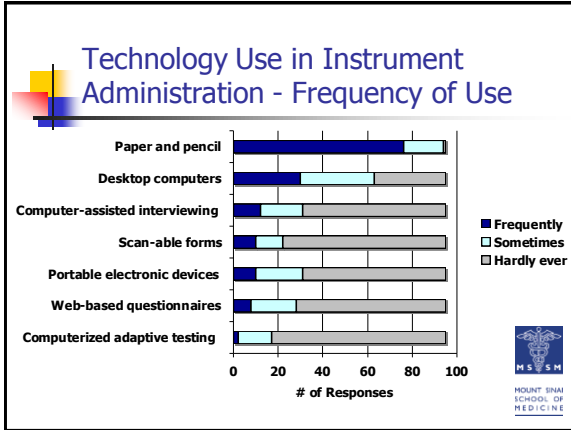


Nature of Personnel Administering Instruments

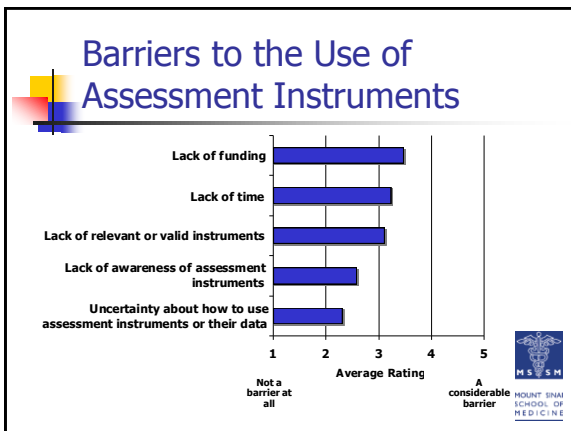


Instrument Administration Methods - Frequency of Use





Findings: Challenges Encountered in Assessment Instrument Use



- ### Comments on Barriers/Challenges
- Staff-related issues
 - Getting staff to participate in assessment instrument use
 - Ensuring accurate, consistent, and timely use of instruments among staff members
 - Reporting back to staff about results of instruments

Comments on Barriers/Challenges

- Lack of availability of norms
- Lack of access to full versions of instruments and their instructions
- Lack of acceptance by third party payors
- Difficulty explaining meaning of findings to patients/clients



Comments on Barriers/Challenges

- Consumer characteristics that make administration difficult, including:
 - Language barriers
 - Vision impairments
 - Psychiatric issues
 - Limited education
 - Inaccessible populations

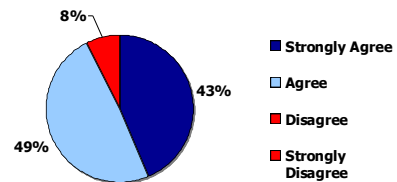


Comments on Barriers/Challenges

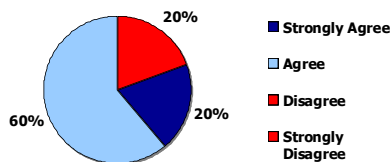
- Difficulty deciding which instrument is best to use when multiple types are available
- Analysis issues:
 - Floor and ceiling effects
 - Lack of procedures for reducing multivariate data
 - Combining the interpretation of data at the level of the individual patient and at an aggregated level



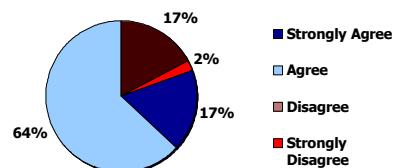
I have received the training I need to use assessment instruments in my professional activities.



I have enough time to use assessment instruments in my professional activities.



There are valid/reliable/sensitive instruments available for the kinds of things I would like to measure in my professional activities.



Areas for Further Instrument Development

- Content Areas
 - Community integration
 - Participation
 - Impact of pain on function
 - Quality of life
 - Well-being
 - Communication
 - Leisure
 - Stress
 - Coping skills
 - Executive function
 - Impact of assistive tech and environmental adaptations
- Populations
 - TBI
 - SCI Visual impairments
 - Burns
 - Amputations
 - Stroke
 - Infants and young children
 - Caregivers



Areas for Further Instrument Development

- Measures that are sensitive to change in very high or very low-functioning consumers
- Rasch-scaled neuropsychological tests
- Virtual reality assessments
- Validated computerized batteries



Suggested Strategies to Facilitate Instrument Use

- Increase availability of web-based resources:
 - Online database/directory of rehabilitation-related instruments
 - Access to full versions of instruments and instructions for their use
 - Data on psychometric properties
 - Guidance about instrument selection (when multiple instruments are available)



Suggested Strategies to Facilitate Instrument Use

- Training and support
 - Create and disseminate training materials (manuals, DVDs, webinars, fact sheets, etc.)
 - Establish "user groups"
 - Outreach efforts to developing nations and others worldwide
- Research issues
 - Better validation of existing measures
 - Better dissemination of research on instruments
 - Studies to examine impact of cultural issues, education, and socioeconomic status on measures
 - Collection of normative data



Suggested Strategies to Facilitate Instrument Use

- Funding issues
 - Allow non-profits to use instruments free of charge
 - Make more continuing education funding available for assessment instrument use training
- Technology
 - Develop computer-based versions of instruments (to help with administration, scoring)
 - Develop instruments that can be administered using portable devices
 - More guidance needed about use of computerized adaptive testing



Discussion



Limitations

- Selection bias
 - Self-selection
 - Missing or outdated emails
- Technical issues
 - Access to survey
 - Difficulty accessing all question pages
- Anonymous nature of data collection makes duplicate responses difficult to identify



Conclusions

- Respondents generally agree that assessment instrument use is important and directly impacts practice
- Instruments are often used for research purposes and clinicians are often involved in administration
- Time, training, cost issues are common barriers to assessment use
- Technology is important for future assessment instrument use, both as tool for disseminating information and as part of administration methods



Conclusions

- Many sources of information were identified but:
 - Information is incomplete (lack of access to full instrument, for example)
 - A central location for instrument resources would be useful
 - Help is needed to "wade through" information (particularly when trying to select an instrument)
- Instrument development still needed to address a number of topic areas and populations



Many thanks are given to:

- My colleagues for their valuable feedback on survey design and content
- ACRM staff for their assistance in publicizing the survey
- ACRM members for taking time to complete the survey



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