

The Effect of Amputation on Body Image and Quality of Life

Introductory Statement

Individuals with limb loss may experience significant psychological and mental health concerns due to their newly found body image. The decline in mental health then leads to a decline in one's quality of life while performing their everyday occupations, including: activities of daily living, instrumental activities of daily living, health management, rest and sleep, education, work, play, leisure, and social participation. It is crucial to examine the impacts of amputation on mental health to inform the design of interventions and strategies that address body image and quality of life.

Purpose

The purpose of this study will be to explore the intricate relationship between amputees and their body image. While many studies address general mental health and amputation, very few address body image and amputation. This study will show how body image affects the day-to-day lives of those with limb loss.

Methodological Approach

This study will use a mixed-methods design to examine how individuals with limb loss experience body image and how that affects quality of life. The quantitative and qualitative survey will have 26 Likert scale questions taken from the Amputee Body Image Scale as well as three open ended questions exploring the lived experience of amputation and body image. The participants will include individuals over 18 years old who have experienced limb loss.

Participants will be recruited through Facebook limb loss support groups and will be referred to a web based Qualtrics survey tool.

Findings

Researchers are still in the data collection process and findings will be reported in the poster presentation.

Contribution to Discipline

This study will fill a gap in the research regarding how an amputee's decrease in body

image affects quality of life. Specifically, this research will show if and how body image affects daily occupations. These findings can educate occupational therapists on the importance of addressing body image in the limb loss population.

Professional Writing

We plan to submit for publication following completion of data collection and analysis