

USING CLINICAL SCENARIOS TO FIND EVIDENCE FOR GERIATRIC PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTICE

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Clinical scenarios related to geriatric physical therapy practice have been added to the Hooked on Evidence website. These scenarios are for management of patients with a number of conditions which affect older adults, including deconditioning, falls, fractures, and osteoporosis, and were developed by a group of expert physical therapist clinicians and researchers.

The scenarios can be accessed in Hooked on Evidence by clicking the link titled Search Clinical Scenarios and are indexed according to the type of Preferred Practice Pattern and conditions they represent. As an example, a clinician who is interested in using interventions that can improve gait speed in patients after a hip fracture would go to the drop down lists and select musculoskeletal as the practice pattern, fractures in older adults as the condition, and the scenario titled older adult with a femur fracture (Figure 1). After selecting the appropriate scenario, a description of the scenario, a reference list, and an outcome list is then displayed (Figure 2). The scenario provides a one paragraph description of a typical patient with the condition and includes text in bold to identify key findings from the examination. The reference list includes articles that relate to these key findings, is organized by study design type, and includes a hyperlink to an extraction of the article, which presents additional information on the participants, interventions, and outcomes of the study. Figure 3 presents a sample view of an individual article extract. Note that an extract provides a link to the PubMed abstract which may further link to full-text of the article. Full-text of an article may also be available through APTA's Open Door at www.apta.org/opendoor.

A list of outcomes related to the clinical scenario is accessed by scrolling to the bottom of the page and allows a

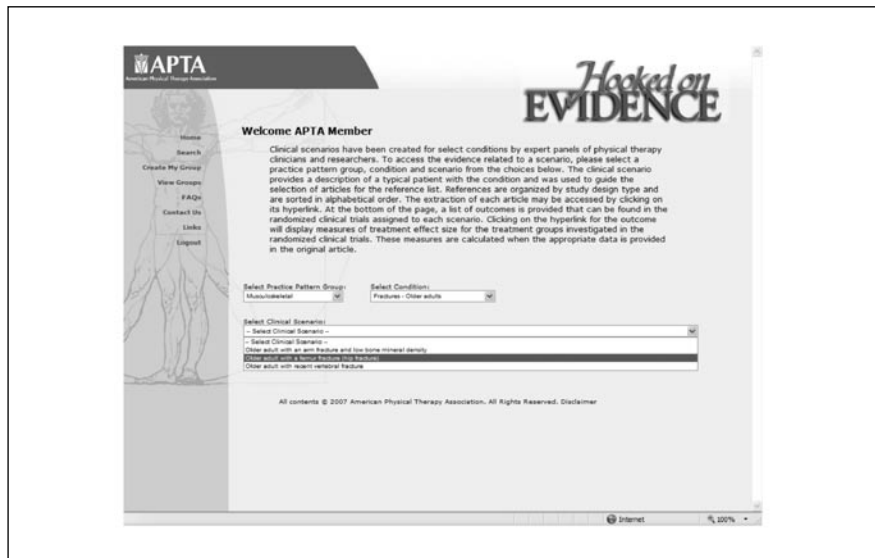


Figure 1. Example of the drop down menus to access a clinical scenario using the Hooked on Evidence website. Note that the scenarios related to older adults are currently listed among the Musculoskeletal, Neuromuscular, and Cardiovascular/Pulmonary practice patterns.

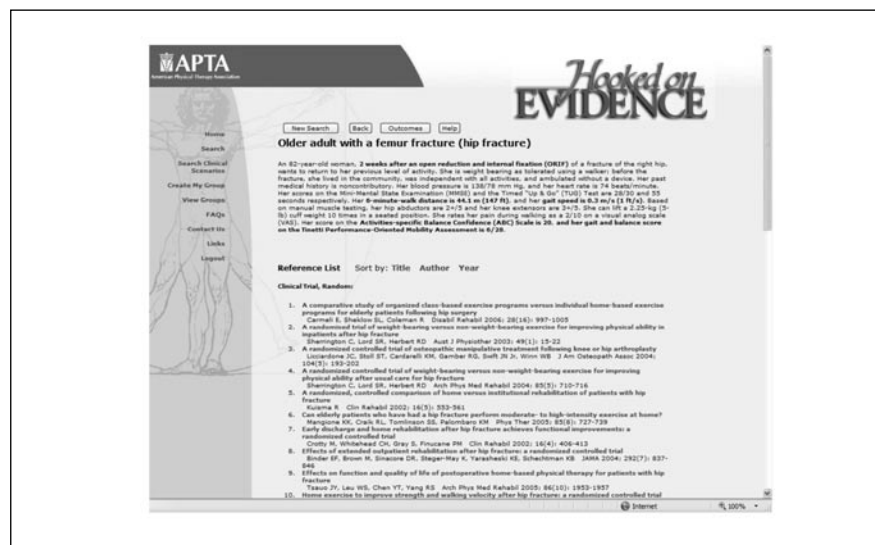


Figure 2. Example of the display of a clinical scenario within the Hooked on Evidence website. A one paragraph description of a typical patient with the condition is provided and includes text in bold to identify key findings from the examination which are used as inclusion criteria for the studies provided in the reference list. A reference list ordered by study design type follows the patient description.

scenarios is the ability for the evidence to be updated as new studies appear in the literature. Hooked on Evidence allows for appropriate articles to be added to the scenarios as soon as the article is extracted into the database. In contrast, published systematic reviews may take years till an updated version that incorporates new evidence appears in press.

Hooked on Evidence may be accessed at www.hookedonevidence.org and is a benefit of membership in APTA. Questions and feedback regarding the scenarios can be sent via e-mail to hookedonevidence@apta.org.

The work of Cathy Ciolek, PT, GCS;

Sandy Ganz, PT, PhD, GCS; Kathleen Mangione, PT, PhD, GCS; Peter Normandt, PT, CRNP; and Anthony Walker, PT in developing the scenarios is greatly appreciated. The assistance of the Section on Geriatrics Exercise Task Force in the provision of lists of appropriate articles is acknowledged.

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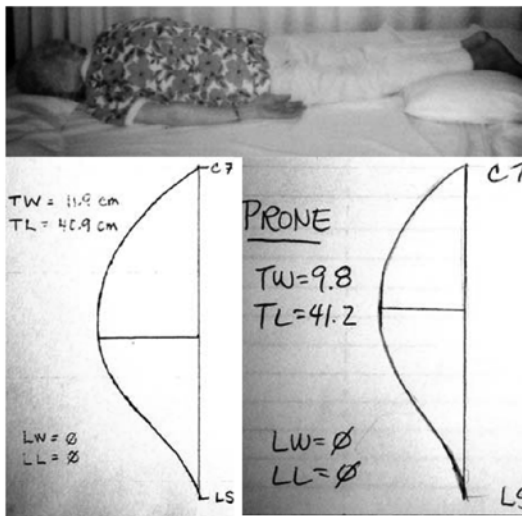
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