

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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The influences of the environment and information on the complications of diabetes on patient outcomes

Kazuoki Inoue^{1*} , Jun Watanabe² and Eiichi Kakehi³

Abstract

This letter was written to address two concerns about the results of the paper published by Zeynep et al. (*BMC Health Qual Life Outcomes* 18:265, 2020). First, the differences between the two groups in the environment with or without occupation may strengthen the primary outcome results. Second, lack of information on the complications and treatments of diabetes makes interpretation of the results difficult.

Keywords: Diabetes mellitus, Occupation-based, Problem-solving, Quality of life

Dear Editor,

We read with great interest this study, which clarified the effects of problem-solving therapy (PST) on the occupational performance, self-efficacy, and well-being of type 2 diabetic patients in Turkey [1]. However, we have two concerns about the methodology of this study.

First, the difference between the two groups in terms of whether they were in an environment with or without occupation might have significantly affected the results, so the results should be subtracted. In this study, although the participants were randomly assigned at Baseline, more participants in the intervention group than in the control group were engaged in work. Therefore, the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (COPM) for primary outcomes is more likely to have a stronger effect on the amount of change because it affects the client's environment [2]. The COPM is a questionnaire that asks about self-perceptions of occupational performance. Participants in the environment with

occupation might find it easier to visualize and practice “problem definition,” “generation of alternatives,” “decision-making,” “solution implementation and verification,” in PST.

Second, this study does not describe the complications and treatment of diabetes, which we would like to know about. Hypoglycemia, a complication of diabetes, is said to reduce the work productivity of diabetic patients [3]. In addition, patients with type 2 diabetes are limited by the social and emotional aspects of insulin therapy [4]; they refuse insulin therapy because they feel that starting insulin will stigmatize them socially [5]. Thus, depending on the complications and treatment of diabetes, the results of this study may be weakened.

Abbreviations

PST: Problem-solving therapy; COPM: The Canadian Occupational Performance Measure.

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Authors' contributions

All authors discussed the study. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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*Correspondence: kishindesu@gmail.com

¹ Department of Community-Based Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, School of Medicine, Tottori University, 86 Nishi-cho, Yonago-City, Tottori 683-8503, Japan

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article



Availability of data and materials

Date sharing is not applicable to this article as no datasets were generated or analyzed during the present study.

Ethics approval and consent to participate

Not applicable.

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Author details

¹Department of Community-Based Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, School of Medicine, Tottori University, 86 Nishi-cho, Yonago-City, Tottori 683-8503, Japan. ²Division of Community and Family Medicine, Jichi Medical University, 3311-1 Shimotsuke-City, Tochigi 329-0498, Japan. ³Tottori Municipal Hospital, 1-1 Matoba, Tottori-City, Tottori 680-8501, Japan.

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