

Best practice management of the hemiplegic upper limb: Utilising audio-visual technology and a skilled facilitator to provide education to clinicians in regional Victoria

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AIM

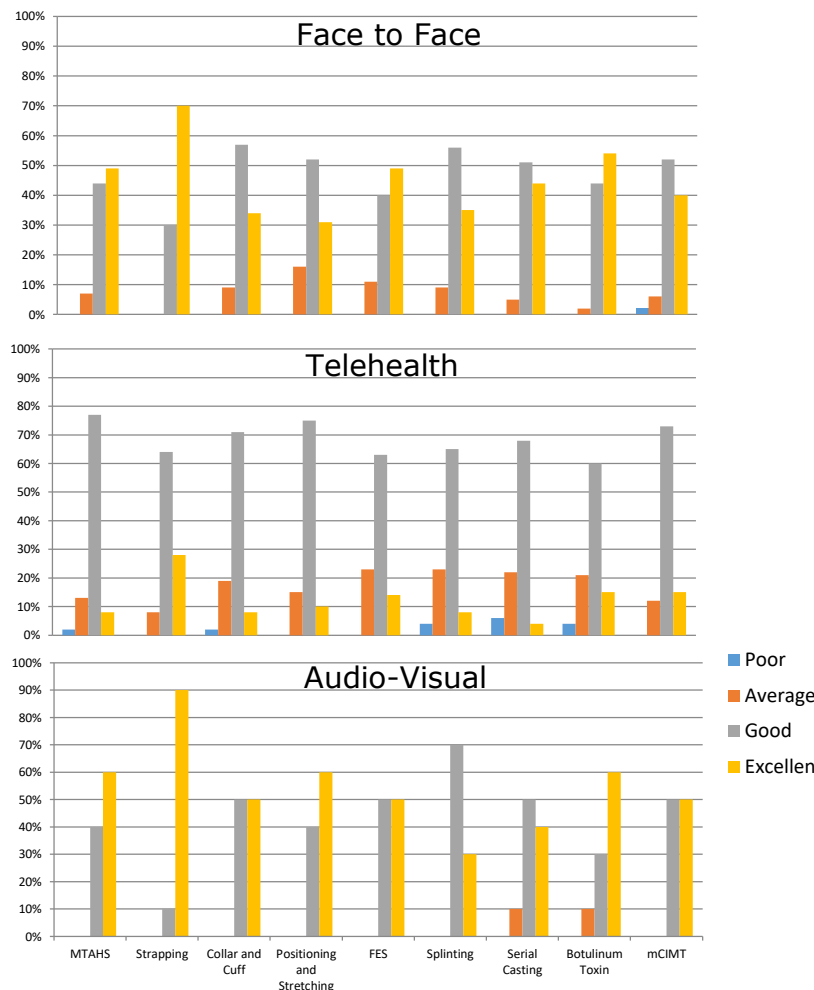
To implement and evaluate an upper limb management course for regional physiotherapists and occupational therapists using audio-visual technology and a skilled facilitator.

METHOD

This project continues the work on 'Best practice management of the hemiplegic upper limb: Utilising telehealth to provide education to clinicians in regional Victoria' (Quiney et al 2016). The method of course delivery was modified in response to feedback. This modified version (audio-visual) utilised a recording of the course, in conjunction with a skilled facilitator to deliver the practical components. The facilitator visited two regional sites in Victoria. Site one was involved in the original telehealth course and their feedback was sought comparing the two delivery methods. Feedback from site two, which had previously not participated in any upper limb course, was compared to prior face-to-face courses at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

RESULTS

Participant feedback from site one, which had previously participated in the telehealth course, found that the delivery method was more straightforward and fluent. The video content was more accessible and clear.



Participant feedback from site two demonstrated a high level of satisfaction with this modified delivery, with scores equivalent to face-to-face courses and higher than for the original telehealth course. This is represented in the graphs adjacent, indicating the percentage of participants in each method of course delivery and how they rated each topic that was presented. Despite the small sample size in this project, the results are encouraging that clinical education and professional development can be delivered to regional clinicians in an effective and accessible method. It also fosters relationship building between health networks and provides additional opportunity to develop further educational programs and courses, based on identified needs and interests.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FINDINGS TO ALLIED HEALTH

- Skilled facilitation of practical components and engagement with course participants provides a good quality learning experience.
- The ability to record and share audio-visual content reduces the reliance on resources.
- Having a face to face connection allows greater discussion and reflection on practice.
- This method of course delivery may inform the design of future courses for the education and development of regional physiotherapists and occupational therapists.