Abstract
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Title
Promoting the client-centered approach to adults with communication and cognition deficits following brain injury, using Talking Mats (TM) as a supportive method in the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (COPM): A process evaluation using video-material and focus group

Background
Some clients with cognitive and communicative deficits after a brain injury are unable to participate in the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (COPM) without support. The study originates from an assumption that some of these clients are able to participate independently in the COPM interview by using visual material to support the dialogue.

Aim
To investigate the clinical utility of COPM supported by TM (a low technology visual communication method), for adults with cognition and communication deficits following brain injury, in order to promote the client-centered dialogue.

Method
Six clients (51–60 years) were included. Criteria for inclusion:
Unable to complete the COPM without support
Cognitive skills in sufficient extent, including arousal, visual and auditory perception, memory, abstraction and linguistic understanding
Self-awareness skills, meaning ability to recognize problems in occupational performance and initiate compensations

After matching the visual material of Talking Mats to COPM, the COPM interview was administered twice with an interval of 10 days, once using Talking Mats and once without. Interviews were videotaped and studied by six evaluators. Data was analyzed, using a qualitative thematic procedure.

Results
Four of the six clients were assessed to profit from the use of TM in the COPM.

The most obvious benefits of using Talking Mats as a supportive tool in the COPM interview were related to the first two steps of the COPM interview.

Conclusion
Using Talking Mats in the COPM interview with clients with cognitive and communicative impairments after a brain injury is recommended as the basis for goal setting.

The present study demonstrates the possibility of conducting a COPM interview for clients who were previously unable to complete a COPM interview and thus promote the client-centred approach in the rehabilitation process.

Keywords
COPM, Talking Mats, goal setting, client-centered approach
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Financial support
The project has received support from: Ergoterapuetforeningen, Bytoften Bo- og aktivitetscenter and VIA University College.

Earlier presentation
The project was, via a poster, presented in Cape Town at the WFOT world conference