


## Evaluating Clinical Instructor Practice and Opinions to Improve Student Physical Therapist Opportunities for Use of Manipulation



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## Purpose



Identify current clinical instructor

- Practice
- Comfort supervising
- Comfort teaching

Determine if students have adequate opportunities to practice M&M



## CAPTE criteria




- F-17  
clinical faculty meet program needs
- F-23  
clinical faculty demonstrate clinical competence
- F-24  
effective clinical teachers



## Background




- PT use of mobilization (non-thrust) & manipulation (thrust) in US for more than 30 years




## Background

- APTA recognizes as part of patient/client management model
  - Normative Model for PT Education
  - The Guide to PT Practice
  - Manipulation Education Manual (2004)
- CAPTE criterion CC-5



## Literature Review

- Clinical Practice Guidelines
- Clinical Prediction Rules
- Current studies
  - Lumbar spine
  - Thoracic
  - Hip




## Literature Review

Barriers to incorporate new evidence into practice

Access to current evidence

- Limited access to full text journals
- Knowledge of efficient search techniques



## Literature Review

Barriers to incorporate new evidence into practice

“I fear that the rapid pace of clinical practice today is forcing therapists to model a less-than-optimal pattern of practice behavior to the naive student clinician.”

Shirley Sahrman (1995)




## Literature Review




..not optimistic that therapists will voluntarily incorporate evidence into practice to improve patient outcomes.

Anthony Delitto (2005)



## Literature Review



ACCE/DCE knowledge of student opportunity to practice thrust/non-thrust

- 70% unaware of CI practice inclusion of manipulation
- 85% do not consider opportunity to practice manipulation in clinical assignments

Boissonnault and Bryant (2004)



## Methods



### Survey Research

- Survey tool developed by Abraham & Wolff-Burke
- CI's for WCU and ISU 2006 final experiences
- Ultimate Survey ® or paper copy



## Results



Total surveys sent: 43 WCU; 18 ISU.

Returned surveys: 6 (ISU)

10 WCU/Ultimeate Survey

8 WCU/ paper format

24 total returned

## Results

Data from all sources incorporated into Microsoft Excel for demographic and descriptive analysis

- SPSS relationship analysis

## Clinician Demographics

- Gender: Female (52%)
- Age: Mean 40, ( $\sigma$  8.11)  
Median 38 ( range 29-56)
- Years of practice: Mean 14 ( $\sigma$  8.56)  
Median 11 (range 2-33)
- Practice Setting: 30% outpatient  
(hospital based/ private practice)

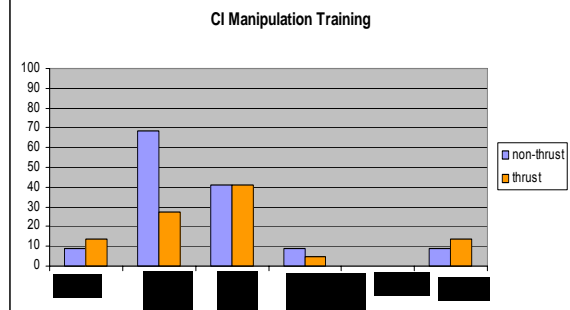
## Clinician Demographics

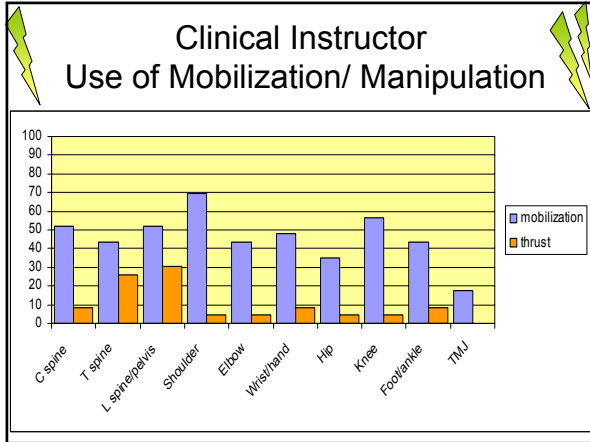
- PT entry level degree: B.S. 43%; MS 48%
- Additional certifications: 5%
- Post-professional degrees: 5%

Professional Membership:

- Not APTA (52%)
- Not AAOMPT (100%)

## Training Received in Thrust/Non-thrust

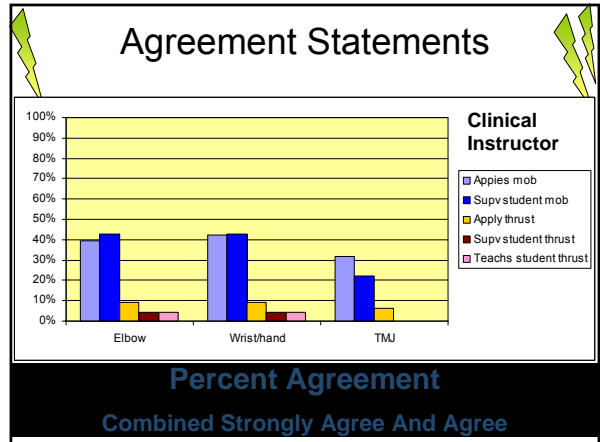
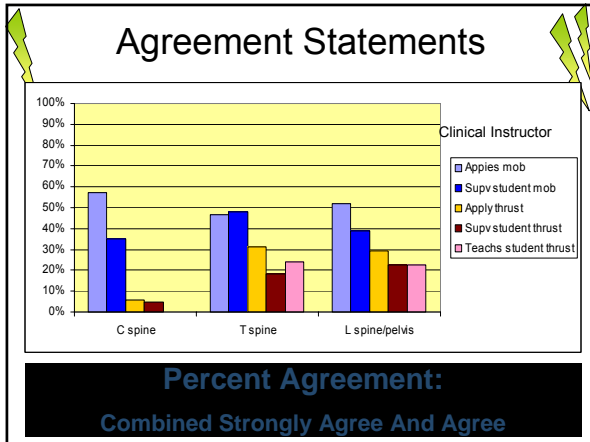


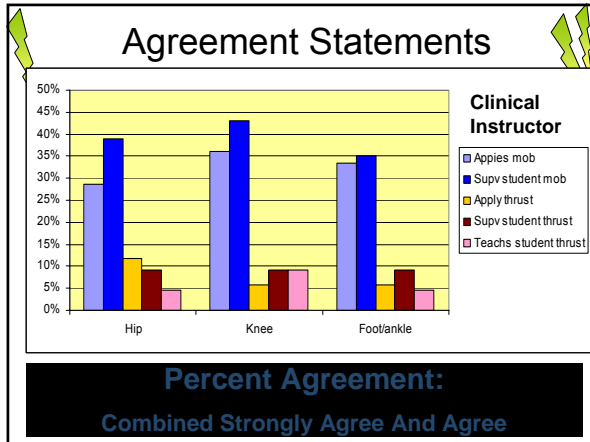


### Survey: 3 Agreement Statements

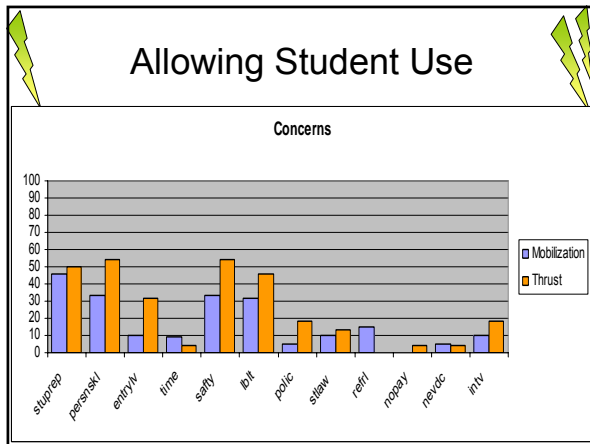
“I am comfortable applying **non-thrust/ thrust** techniques for each of the following regions”

“I am comfortable supervising/teaching student performance of **non-thrust/ thrust** techniques for each of the following regions”






- ### Survey: Allowing Student Use: Concerns
- Lack of student preparation
  - Lack of personal skill level
  - Patient safety
  - Liability
  - Not an appropriate skill for entry level students




- ### Discussion
- Majority report use of non-thrust/ thrust
  - Consistent use is low
  - Consistent use for various joints variable
  - Comfort supervising students is limited



## Discussion


Results similar to Boissonnault and Bryant (2005)

- Percentage of utilization of thrust manipulation
- Order of thrust use by joint
- Concerns about allowing student use




## Discussion

- Differences to Boissonnault and Bryant
  - Variety of clinician practice settings
  - No relationship to thrust training
  - No relationship to post-professional degree
  - No relationship to gender



## Study Limitations

- Limited time frame of study (4 weeks)
- Communication between two programs
- Limited contact with specific CI
- Low response rate (37%)
- No follow up mechanism



## Study Limitations

- New survey software
- Variability in question order
- Variability in method of response
- Optional questions



## Future Study



Determine effect of professional development for clinical instructor

- Manipulation Education Manual
- Thrust Seminar
- Learning activities for student clinical education experiences



## Thank You!!



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