

Reference: Dice JL, Dendy D, Sizer PS, Cook CE, Feuling S, Brismée JM. Use of Manual Therapy in Children: A United States Physical Therapy Delphi Investigation

Context: Sparse research is available regarding OMT effectiveness in managing children with musculoskeletal and neurological impairments.

Objective: (1) To build consensus amongst physical therapists holding advanced credentials in pediatrics, neurodevelopmental treatment (PCS/NDT group) and manual therapy (FAAOMPT group) regarding the appropriate OMT techniques use in the pediatric population; and (2) identify barriers and factors, which contribute to therapists' decision to use OMT techniques.

Design: Three-round Delphi investigation

Setting: Data collection was performed via Qualtrics® electronic platform.

Specimens, Patients or Other Participants: United States physical therapists with credentials including PCS, C/NDT and FAAOMPT were recruited for a three-round Delphi investigation. Delphi Round 1 was emailed to 835 physical therapists. Round 1 included 42 FAAOMPT and 41 PCS/NDT respondents (10% response rate) with the final round including 16 FAAOMPT and 17 PCS/NDT respondents from 21 states.

Intervention(s): An initial electronic survey identified musculoskeletal and neurological impairments and manual techniques considered most effective to treat those impairments. Responses from Round 1 were used to create Round 2, during which respondents used a 4-point Likert scale to score each group to identify factors and barriers that

creating manual therapy guidelines and developing education opportunities to enhance physical therapists' knowledge in treating children.