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Subgroup effects of occupational therapy-based intervention for people with advanced cancer

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INTRODUCTION

- People with advanced cancer have decreased Activities of Daily Living (ADL) ability
- We assessed efficacy of occupational therapy-based (OT-based) program, the 'Cancer Home-Life Intervention' in randomised controlled trial (RCT)
- No effect was found, but heterogeneity of treatment effect may disguise subgroup differences

AIM

To investigate gender and age (below/above 69 years) preponderance to respond to intervention

METHOD

- Exploratory subgroup analysis from RCT (N=191)

PARTICIPANTS

- Diagnosed with incurable cancer, had functional level 1-2 on WHO Performance Score, and lived at home or in sheltered living

OUTCOME

- ADL motor ability (Assessment of Motor and Process Skills) measured at baseline (T1) and at 12-weeks (T2)

ANALYSIS

- Multiple regression analysis; ADL motor ability at T2 as the dependent variable, treatment groups (intervention versus control) as the independent variable, and age and gender as modifiers

THE 'CANCER HOME-LIFE INTERVENTION'

Main target = problems with participants occupations
Resolved by tailored combinations of 2-6 components chosen by participant and occupational therapist together



Intervention timeframe: 3 weeks
Home visits: 1-3
Telephone contacts: 1-3

RESULTS

	logits (95% CI), p value
<69 years vs. ≥69 years:	0.30 (-0.05;0.64), 0.09
Women vs. men:	0.23 (-0.11;0.57), 0.19

Attention:

Intervention apparently has better effect in participants <69 years, but results statistically non-significant

CONCLUSION

No subgroup effect, but some indications suggest greater effect for those aged below 69 years