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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

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

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1
Adapt posture
2
Prioritise occupations
3
Adapt occupations
4
Adapt occupations
5
Assistive technology
6
Home modification

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