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Concept Analysis of Limited Joint Mobility in the foot

Background

Limited Joint mobility (LJM) is one of the earliest clinically apparent long term complications of Type 1 Diabetes – Lindsay (2005).

A concept analysis approach was used to review available literature focusing on LJM in the foot. Clinical features of LJM were explored and the potential consequences to tissue changes appraised, to provide a clearer exposition of this condition and the factors underlying it. This work has application to a wide community of practitioners to illustrate the presence of LJM and the potential effects on joint function which may lead to ulceration of the Diabetic foot.

Research Design and Method

Concept analysis is a method of research which contributes to a body of knowledge or developing theory about specific concepts or phenomenon Walker and Avants (2005)

Three Broad goals

Analysis - dissect out relevant literature
Synthesis - combine the seemingly isolated components together
Derivation - employ analogy/develop theory to make sense of the evidence

Results

This concept analysis has identified literature on LJM falls into three domains:

1) Structural effects
2) Functional effects
3) Tissue properties

Conclusions

The empirical referents within a concept analysis framework are measures of the defining attributes. This concept analysis has developed a theoretical framework of three domains to facilitate understanding of LJM in the foot.

Foot Function models can examine the biomechanical paradigms underpinning range of motion at joints
Structural models to measure the behaviour of soft tissues in weight bearing and non weight bearing states.

Tissue properties of LJM will be investigated given the association of connective tissues changes affected by glycosylation in patients with diabetes

References

Lindsay, J.R. et al Reduced prevalence of Limited Joint Mobility in Type 1 Diabetes in a UK Clinic Population over a 20 year period Diabetes Care 28: 658-661, 2005.

The Prayer Sign a clinical technique to assess the presence of LJM in the hands Frost (2001).