

Notes from the Editor-in-Chief

Welcome to our first issue of the 2023 ASEAN Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine. This issue has articles relate directly to rehabilitation medicine treatment and diagnostic methods that are becoming popular among rehabilitation physicians. There are also researches on factors related to the therapeutic effects of various diseases. The readers can have more information for decision-making in the practices. In addition, research on medical education topics has also been exciting from residency training programs.

In the first article, Keesukphan A and her colleagues studied the effect of peripheral magnetic stimulation in patients with knee osteoarthritis. The authors looked specifically at the short-term effects of repetitive peripheral magnetic stimulation on pain reduction in knee osteoarthritis. Their findings indicated that adding this treatment intervention provided no significant additional therapeutic effect in a short-term improvement of pain in primary knee osteoarthritis patients compared with sham treatment. They suggested that future studies include multiple treatment sessions and investigate an appropriate treatment protocol.

In the second article, Vorawanthanachai T and her colleagues compared the effects of three soreness reduction methods after dry needling for a patient with upper trapezius trigger points. They suggested that diclofenac spray combined with contract-relax stretching might be the intervention of choice to reduce post-dry needling soreness at the upper trapezius muscle effectively.

In the third article, Eurcherdkul P and her colleagues examined the efficacy of high-intensity lasers combined with muscle training in patients with patellofemoral pain syndrome. They found that, adding these interventions did not yield better outcomes than muscle training alone.

In the fourth article, Poolipat P and her colleagues carried out their cross-sectional study about thermoplastic ankle-foot orthoses in patients with foot drop to identify factors related to AFO use and develop a more efficient way to determine an appropriate AFO prescription. They found that sixty percent of their patients continued using an AFO after three months. The factors contributing to good compliance are; being unable to do ankle dorsiflexion, wearing clogs, and having practiced walking with a physical therapist.

In the fifth article is about the diagnosis study. Charussuriyong P and Suksathien R found that a shoulder ultrasound by a trained physiatrist showed high sensitivity and specificity for detecting supraspinatus tears diagnosed by MRI. They suggested that trained clinicians new to musculoskeletal ultrasound could use this method to evaluate supraspinatus tendon tears for initial diagnosis and management.

The sixth article, Suksathien R and her colleagues evaluated the reliability and acceptability of using the multiple mini-interview (MMI) for Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine in the residency admission selection process. They found that the MMI was highly accepted among both candidates and interviewers, especially in fairness and decreased bias, allowing efficient evaluation of the candidate's performance and strengths.

In the seventh article, Lewisirirat S and her colleagues evaluated the relationship between evensor muscle function and recurrence of deformity in pediatric idiopathic clubfoot after two years or more after treatment. They found that the severe deformity at presentation was a significant proportion of the recurrence.

The last article is a case report by Pattanasuwan P. She presented her case about Riche-Cannieu anastomosis in patients with suspected carpal tunnel syndrome. She emphasized that this anastomosis should be excluded if no compound muscle action potential response is obtained from the abductor pollicis brevis with median stimulation without supportive evidence, such as motor weakness and muscle atrophy. Stimulation of the ulnar nerve with recording at the APB muscle can help avoid misdiagnosis.

We continue to invite and welcome works from our rehabilitation medicine field in South East ASEAN countries colleagues. We look forward to your submissions of individual papers and special-themed issues and forums. Thank you for joining us

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