

Embracing Technological Advancements: Future Directions in Occupational Therapy

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As technology rapidly advances, the Fourth Industrial Revolution is becoming a reality. However, the role of occupational therapists is not being replaced by these technological advancements; instead, it is expanding. We are expected to actively incorporate technology and use it as a tool to promote clients' participation in society.

In 2011, we developed ADOC (Aid for Decision-making in Occupation Choice), an iPad application that facilitates individualized goal setting for clients. This innovative tool has expanded our roles as occupational therapists by transforming interventions from generic, repetitive exercises to personalized, occupation-based practices. Currently, ADOC supports English, Korean, Chinese, and Māori, and is being utilized across various Asian countries. Following ADOC, we developed ADOC for school (ADOC-S) for school-based occupational therapy, and ADOC for hand (ADOC-H) to promote the use of injured hands in daily activities. These tools have also contributed to expanding the roles of occupational therapists in schools and the field of physical disabilities.

Additionally, the Japanese Association of Occupational Therapists is currently conducting database research in the field of physical disabilities. This project is expected to significantly contribute to evidence-based practice in occupational therapy, addressing one of our weaknesses by enabling detailed intervention outcomes and more precise prognosis predictions.

In my presentation, I will cover various other technologies and explore strategies for integrating these advancements. I look forward to a fruitful discussion with all of you on this topic.