

## Research Assessment #8

**Date: January 26, 2018**

**Subject: Occupational Therapy**

**MLA Citation:**

**Alic, Margaret. "Occupational therapy." *The Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine*, edited by Jacqueline L. Longe, 5th ed., Gale, 2015. *Health & Wellness Resource Center*, <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/ZBUEJQ367973059/HWRC?u=j043905001&sid=HWRC&xid=1a6f2dfo>. Accessed 17 Jan. 2018.**

**Assessment:**

The importance of therapy to those who have suffered from multiple diseases takes high importance during the disease as well as the recovery period for acute illness. Whether a patient suffers from acute or chronic illness, the treatment received, both emotionally and physically most often falls under the category of occupational therapy. Occupational Therapy is one of the specialties in the medical field that is often ignored due to the fact that it falls under all medical practices, so it is not a branch to just one form of medicine. Due to its broad usage, it is often forgotten and is not giving a public importance. The article from the Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine, "Occupational Therapy", demonstrates the importance of lifestyle in the duration and recovery period of an illness.

In the article "Occupational Therapy", lifestyle consists of mental, emotional, and physical environments. By incorporating all types of disease and treatment into the definition of Occupational Therapy, all aspects of lifestyle is covered. The purpose of the specialty of Occupational Therapy is definitely to enable patients with both chronic and acute patients as well as mental and physical disorders to live as simply and independently as possible in the easiest way, according to Gale Encyclopedia's "Occupational Therapy". The purpose of this field has relevance to my topic because, the lifestyle of a child patient is important due to the fact that it not only impacts the patient themselves but also their family. The treatment, or therapy, that a patient undergoes through the utilization of Occupational Therapy changes the life of a patient on an everyday basis, not just a few aspects but an entire day full of processes due to the fact that the therapy undergone by a patient taking part in the Occupational Therapy specialized branch does not experience a "one-and-done" type of treatment, therefore applying to pediatrics as well as all medical specialties. By not sticking to one specific method, the purpose is broaden to making tasks easier or allowing patients to grow independent in most aspects of their life, which can apply to any field, including pediatric care. Also according to Gale's article, "Occupational Therapy", "*Occupational therapy often breaks tasks down into smaller steps, such as learning a song note by note. To learn to bathe, the client may first learn to turn on the water, then adjust the*

*temperature, find soap and a towel, and then climb in the tub”(Alic 1)*. By breaking down processes, it allows patients to fully understand how and why every process takes place. By administering this type of therapy to children, they are able to understand and comprehend the world around them. The breaking down of these processes demonstrate how each activity is work for a patient due to their illness or disorder, therefore spanning across many medical specialties, including pediatrics. By reading this article, I am able to gain a better understanding that while treatment or therapy provided by Occupational Therapy may be a life-long endeavor and that it is a constant in everyday life, it make the skills acquired by patients more meaningful and helpful.

Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine’s article “Occupational Therapy” allowed me to see into how even treatment in the pediatric world spans passed the prescription or reference to a specialist, but is actually rather broad. By doing so, I have gained a wider perspective of the medical world and how every specialty connects back to the purpose of helping others.