Effectiveness of Multifaceted Fall Prevention Programs in Community-Dwelling Older Adults

Marissa Friday
Western Michigan University, marissa.j.friday@wmich.edu
Cali Mohney
Western Michigan University, cali.e.mohney@wmich.edu

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Effectiveness of Multifaceted Fall Prevention Programs in Community-Dwelling Older Adults

Marissa Friday & Cali Mohney

CASE STUDY: Client is a 72 year old female who has suffered a fall from loss in balance, which has increased fear of falling and decreased activity. Occupational Therapy wants to implement a Multifaceted Fall Prevention Program to improve participation and quality of life.

Low quality or inconclusive evidence was found related to Multifaceted Fall Prevent Programs in community-dwelling older adults.

1 Ask: Research Question
What is the effectiveness of a Multifaceted Fall Prevention Program for community-dwelling older adults?

2a Acquire: Search Terms
Patient/Client groups: Community-Dwelling Older Adults
Intervention: Multifaceted Fall Prevention Program
Comparison: Multifaceted Fall Prevention Program versus Single Intervention or No Intervention
Outcome: To Reduce Falls and Fall-Related Outcomes.

Database: ProQuest, Cochrane, Elsevier-Science Direct, PubMed.

Search Words: Community, Older Adult, Falls, Multifaceted Fall Prevention Program, Occupational Therapy

2b Acquire: Selected Articles
1. Chase, Mann, Wasek, & Arbesman (2012): A systematic review examined Single Intervention (Physical Activity, Home Assessment and Home Modification) and the use of a Multifaceted Fall Prevention Programs.
2. Elliott & Natalie (2018): A systematic review that used a Single Intervention and Multifaceted Fall Prevention Programs.
3. Hopewell et al. (2018): A systematic review examined Multifaceted Fall Prevention Programs versus the use of a Single or No Intervention.

3a Appraise: Study Quality
1. Chase, Mann, Wasek, & Arbesman (2012): The study included 33 studies- 31 Level I RCTs and 2 Level II.
2. Elliott & Natalie (2014): The study included Level I Articles that included 50 articles- 37 Level I, 5 Level II, and 8 Level III.

3b Appraise: Outcome Measures
1. Chase, Mann, Wasek, & Arbesman (2012): Number of participants falling, number of hospital admissions, ADLs and IADLs performance, quality of life, fear of falling, and participants perception of one’s own health.
2. Elliott & Natalie (2018): Fall related outcomes were: rate of falls, injurious falls, fear of falling, improvement in balance confidence, quality of life, balance and mobility skills, improved occupational performance, and awareness of fall reduction strategies.

3c Appraise: Interventions
1. Chase, Mann, Wasek, & Arbesman (2012): Multifaceted Fall Prevention Programs included variations of the following: home modifications, education, medication management, vision management, gait/balance training, ADLs, IADLs, and strength/balance training compared to Single Interventions such as tai chi, balance, or lower-limb strengthening.
2. Elliott & Natalie (2018): Multifaceted Fall Prevention Programs included variations of the following: education (cognition, postural hypotension, vision impairment, continence), exercise (balance, strength, functional tasks, walking, dual/multi-task activities, obstacle course training), pain management, goal development/monitoring, mentoring, motivation, and educated on community resources compared Single Interventions such as LIFE or water-based interventions.
3. Hopewell et al. (2018): Multifaceted Fall Prevention Programs included variations of the following: exercises (gait, balance, functional, strength, resistance), medication management, incontinence management, fluid/nutrition therapy, cognitive behavioral interventions, assistive technology, home modifications, and education compared to Single Interventions such as strength, tai chi, or exercise.

4a Apply: Study Results
1. Chase, Mann, Wasek, & Arbesman (2012): Findings were increased rate of functional performance, quality of life, balance/strength, and a decrease fear of falling. Results were mixed in the Multifaceted Fall Prevention Programs in the number of falls.
2. Elliott & Natalie (2018): Mixed results that were found in the Single Interventions and Multifaceted Fall Prevention Programs. However, studies that included the home assessments/modification and hazard removal as a part of their Multifaceted Fall Prevention Program were found to be more successful.
3. Hopewell et al. (2018): Trials comparing Multifaceted Fall Prevention Programs with No Intervention showed that there may be little to no difference due to low quality evidence between the two.

4b Apply: Conclusions for Practice
Overall, these programs did appear beneficial in improving ADLs and IADLs performance, strength, balance, gate, fear of falling, and quality of life. However, mixed or insufficient data were found on Multifaceted Fall Prevention Programs helping to reduce the number of falls.

References

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