discharge (from r= .59 to r= .62); the 3MS’s components at admission were found to predict the FIM summary score at discharge (Beta values from -.28 to .26); the components of the 3MS at admission were found to predict the 3MS summary score at admission and at discharge (Beta values from -.22 to 1.49). The study findings demonstrate the reliability and validity of the 3MS. This tool appears to be a superior alternative to the MMSE, in predicting the rehabilitation potential of elderly patients. It is recommended to examine the use of the 3MS with elderly in the community as well.

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The Role of Occupational Therapy in Palliative treatment for the Elderly

**Key Words:** Palliative Care, Occupational Therapy, Elderly, End-of-Life Care

With advances in medicine, there has been a dramatic increase in life expectancy in Israel, as in the entire Western world. This increase in life expectancy has been accompanied by a significant increase in the percentage of elderly in Israel. Today, many seniors in their later years are faced with a variety of chronic, long lasting, progressive diseases that are considered to be more common in the elderly. These diseases result in a wide variety of physical, functional,
physiological and mental impairments that intensify in their final stages towards the end of life. This period of the end of life is often accompanied by suffering, pain, a feeling of isolation and of being a burden on the family. As of the 1960’s there developed an understanding that elderly patients with life threatening diseases should be treated using a unique treatment approach appropriate to their situation. This approach is referred to as palliative treatment. Palliative care is a holistic treatment approach that provides an answer to ongoing progressive diseases, which takes into account the limitations and suffering in the period before death. Occupational therapist treatment based on the principles of palliative intervention has a number of objectives, including: improving the perception of quality of life, increasing participation, strengthening the sense of hope and finding occupations that are meaningful to a person at the end of his/her life. Occupational therapy treatment based on the principles of palliative care is a developing field world-wide and in Israel and therefore, there is a need to explore and expand the existing knowledge in this field. This article will present the palliative care approach in general, and specifically in geriatrics, and will review the role of occupational therapy within this approach. In addition, the article will present recommendations and future implications for integrating palliative occupational therapy intervention in Israel.

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