**P35 - A PROPOSED STUDY ON THE COMPARATIVE EFFECTS OF HOIST SLING FABRICS AND DESIGN FEATURES ON GLUTEAL INTERFACE PRESSURE IN HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS (STUDENT POSTER)**

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**Brief Description of Research or Project:** Best practice guidelines recommend removing slings from under patients to minimize the risk of pressure ulcer development; however, there is limited research to support the link between slings and gluteal interface pressure (GIP). After a literature search, pilot testing and discussions with experts in the field, a research protocol has been developed for the upcoming year. This study will investigate the effects of sling fabrics and their design features on GIP for seated, healthy individuals. These results will have the potential to inform best practice in the areas of pressure ulcer prevention and sling use for clients with limited mobility.
**Why is this research important to profile at the Research Day 2014?** In Canada, pressure ulcer (PU) prevalence in healthcare settings is approximately 26% (Woodbury & Houghton, 2004). PUs are also very expensive as they can cost up to $27,300 per patient for personnel and supplies (Woodbury & Houghton, 2005). In an effort to encourage long-term care facilities to reduce the prevalence of PUs, and thus decrease the financial burden to the Ontario healthcare system, PUs are used as a quality indicator by Health Quality Ontario (Health Quality, 2013). Moreover, PUs have both physical and psychological effects, as they result in decreased quality of life, pain, reduction in function and loss of activities of daily living (Mellson & Richardson, 2012 & Brienza et al., 2010). Health care professionals need to be aware of the current research in PU management and prevention to provide evidence-based care to their clients. There is limited evidence regarding how sitting on a sling impacts pressure, even though slings are commonly used in many healthcare settings in which occupational therapists practice. Therefore, for professionals to provide responsible, informed care there must be more research investigating sling use, pressure and how proper management of pressure can help in the prevention of PUs. Care transitions may also be positively affected when healthcare professionals have more resources and knowledge of how to prevent PUs. This poster presents a proposed study which will investigate this topic and provide insight into pressure distribution across individuals' gluteal area when sitting on a sling.