Gerard Koel

Fysiotherapeut, Eerstelijns FT praktijk, Hengelo Docent en onderzoeker fysiotherapie, Saxion Hogeschool, Enschede

Effectiveness MT, what do we know?

The differences between Manual Therapy (MT) and Physical Therapy (PT) are not always clear. Questions like: Do PT's also mobilize joints in the shoulder girdle? Are high velocity thrust techniques restricted to MT's? Do MT's also apply hands-off treatment?; are not easy to answer and make clear that there's an overlap between MT and PT. There may also be a discrepancy between the self-confidence of MT's and the lack of external evidence. A sort of a classical conflict between authority based and evidence based PT. e effectiveness of their treatments in daily practice? An intriguing question. Recently three systematic reviews (1-3) are published in three relevant journals (one of them indeed a Cochrane review) and could lead to high evidence statements about the effectiveness of MT; based on the external evidence there's evidence that additional MT in a PT treatment plan is of little value. So the EBM column external evidence is rather clear at the moment. What the two other EBM columns (therapist competences & patient expectations and values)? Can those be an indication to motivate MT as (additional) treatment? And what about the (academic) attitude of MT's; does acceptance of this level 1 evidence decrease as well their profile as the effectiveness of their treatments in daily practice? An intriguing question.