



Use of and Satisfaction with the National Limb Loss Resource Center

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INTRODUCTION

Since 1997, the Amputee Coalition has operated the National Limb Loss Resource Center (NLLRC). The purpose of the NLLRC is to ensure the availability of, and access to, comprehensive information, resources, and supports for individuals with limb loss and their caregivers. The NLLRC fills an important void by providing individuals with free patient education materials and referring them to programs and services in their local community to help them address their needs.

Research suggests that the majority of persons who experience an amputation have no prior knowledge about prosthetic devices, lack a source of information about many of the topics related to living with limb loss(1). Additionally, individuals who experience an amputation feel that they are provided with an insufficient amount of information on a wide range of topics related to limb loss, including the rehabilitation process and possible outcomes(2).

This current work evaluates how well the Amputee Coalition's National Limb Loss Resource Center addresses this need for information.

METHOD

From 2012 to 2015, the Amputee Coalition conducted an online survey to evaluate the user satisfaction and impact of the NLLRC.

Subjects: A total of 911 survey participants were drawn from a convenience sample of 10,451 individuals who contacted the Amputee Coalition's NLLRC from April 1st 2012 through March 31, 2015.

Apparatus: Three separate online surveys conducted each year from 2012 — 2015.

Data Analysis: Data analysis performed by SPSS, descriptive statistics and inferential statistical analysis conducted as appropriate.

RESULTS

Survey results suggest that individuals who contact the Amputee Coalition's National Limb Loss Resource Center are largely satisfied with the information and resources received in response to their request, find the information and resources to be useful, and are positively impacted by the materials received from the Amputee Coalition (See Fig 1 – 3).

Figure 1 – Satisfaction with materials received from the NLLRC

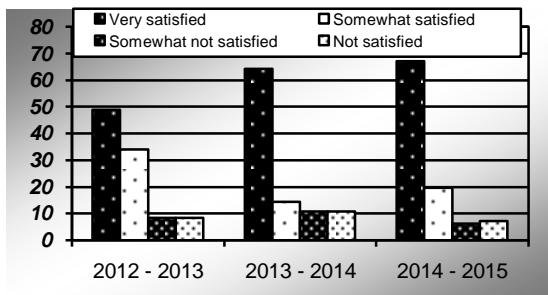


Figure 2 – Usefulness of materials received from the NLLRC

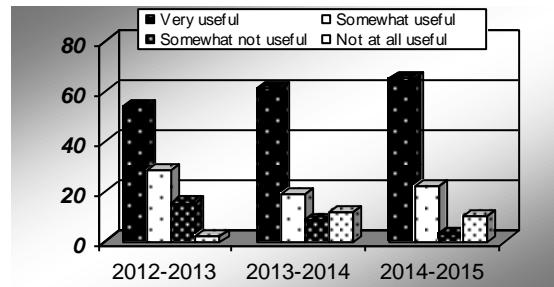
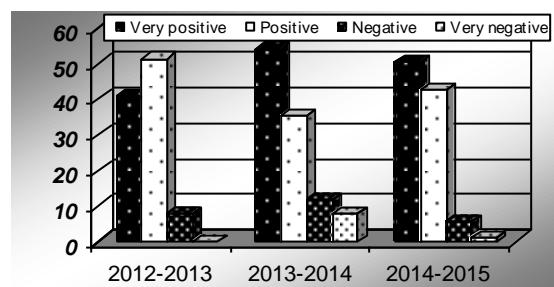


Figure 3 – Impact of materials received from the NLLRC



DISCUSSION

Based on the results from this survey, the Amputee Coalition's National Limb Loss Resource Center plays an important role in providing information and resources to help inform and educate individuals who experience an amputation.

CONCLUSION

The Amputee Coalition's National Limb Loss Resource Center provides information and resources that have a positive impact on the lives of those affected by limb loss. Users of the NLLRC are largely satisfied with the materials received.

CLINICAL APPLICATIONS

The NLLRC is a free resource that prosthetists should refer their patients to in order to address their information needs. Additionally, distributing the Amputee Coalition's cost-effective patient education materials can further enhance the quality of care prosthetists provide their patients.

REFERENCES

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