

Abstract;

The first sport-focused research agenda for Canadian sports chiropractors – a consensus study using the Delphi technique.

Background: Research agendas are critical to advancing the investigative capacity and productivity of a field of study. They identify knowledge gaps, prioritize research, ensure research is clinically relevant and guide the allocation of critical resources. To date, a sports-focused research agenda for sports chiropractors has never been published.

Objectives: To determine consensus on sports-focused research priorities to create the first sports-focused research agenda for Canadian sports chiropractors.

Methods: Clinician, researcher and leadership experts within the sports chiropractic field in Canada will be invited to participate in 1) a consensus survey to refine a list of sports-focused research directives extracted from a previous study, 2) a Delphi study to determine consensus on these research directives, and 3) a priority importance and feasibility ranking survey of the consensus items identified from the Delphi study. All research directives in the Delphi study will be ranked using a 9-point Likert scale. An a priori consensus level will be set at 70% and a maximum of 3 Delphi rounds will be conducted.

Analysis: Consensus on a research directive will be determined “important” (ranked from 9 to 7 on the Likert scale), of “uncertain importance” (6 to 4) or “unimportant” (3 to 1) if 70% or more of the experts rank the item within the respective ranking range. Descriptive statistics and frequency counts will be conducted using Survey Monkey and Microsoft Excel.

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