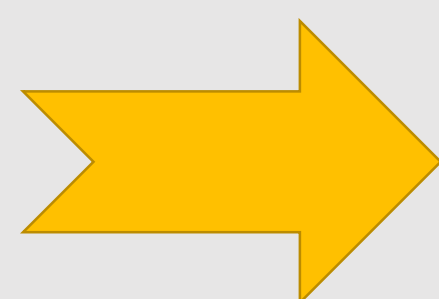


Developing competencies for Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP) Hand Therapists providing first line assessment and management of closed hand fractures

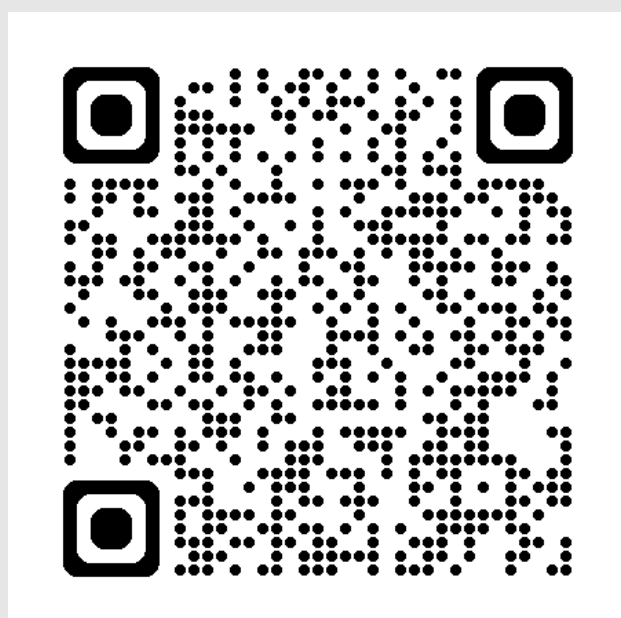
Published Evidence vs Clinician Opinion

Hand fractures: 7% of all emergency admissions¹
Increasingly managed solely by ACP Hand Therapists
Variation in competencies / training / experience



Competencies required to establish training requirements and standardise practice

Scoping review



Clinician Survey

Electronic survey: data collection October 2023 – January 2024
Reviewed: BAHT clinical evidence committee
Disseminated: conference, social media, associations, emails
Themes: imaging, assessment, treatment, general
Competencies, training, experience, skills : rated / open comments
UK therapists, radiologists, surgeons and emergency practitioners

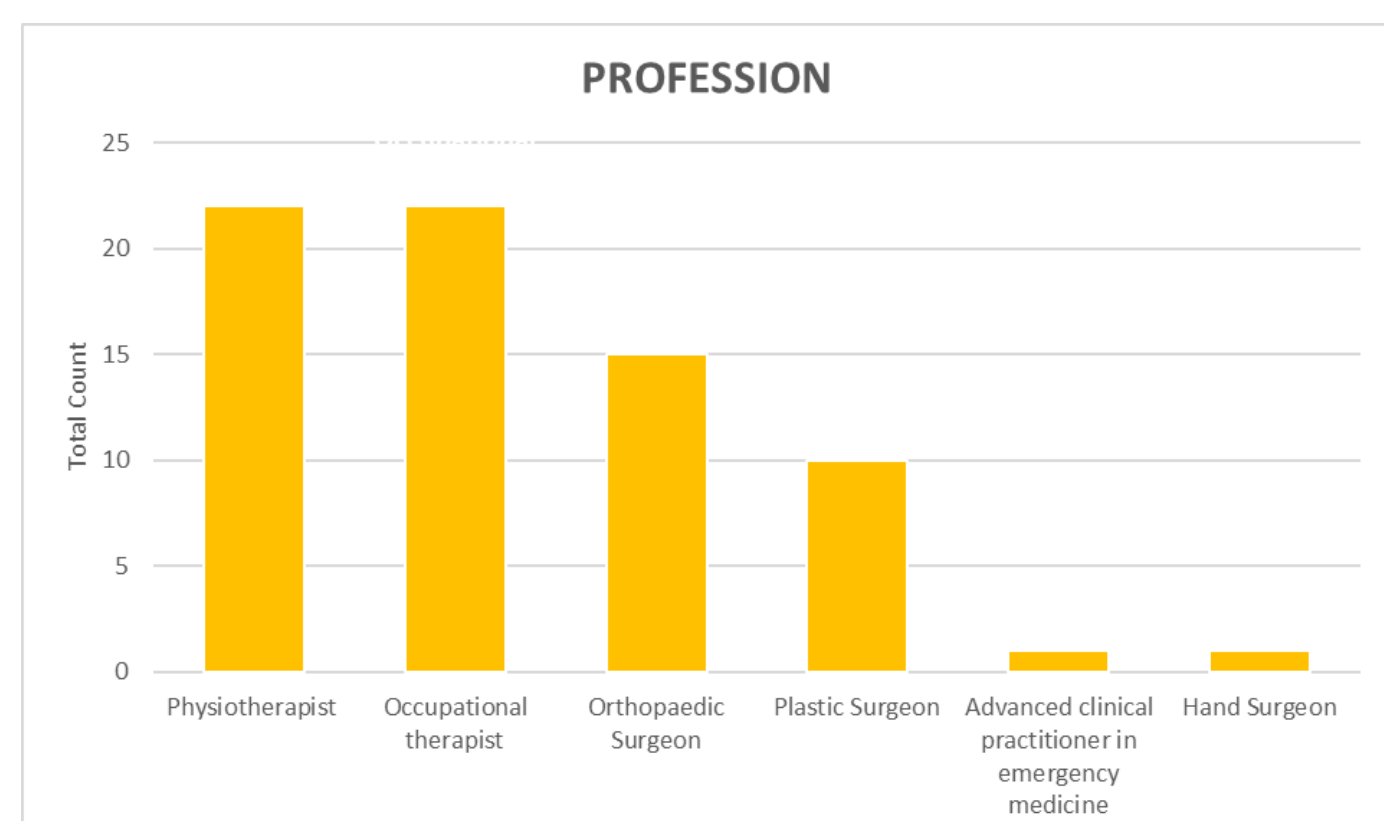


Figure 1. Profession of survey participants (n= 71)

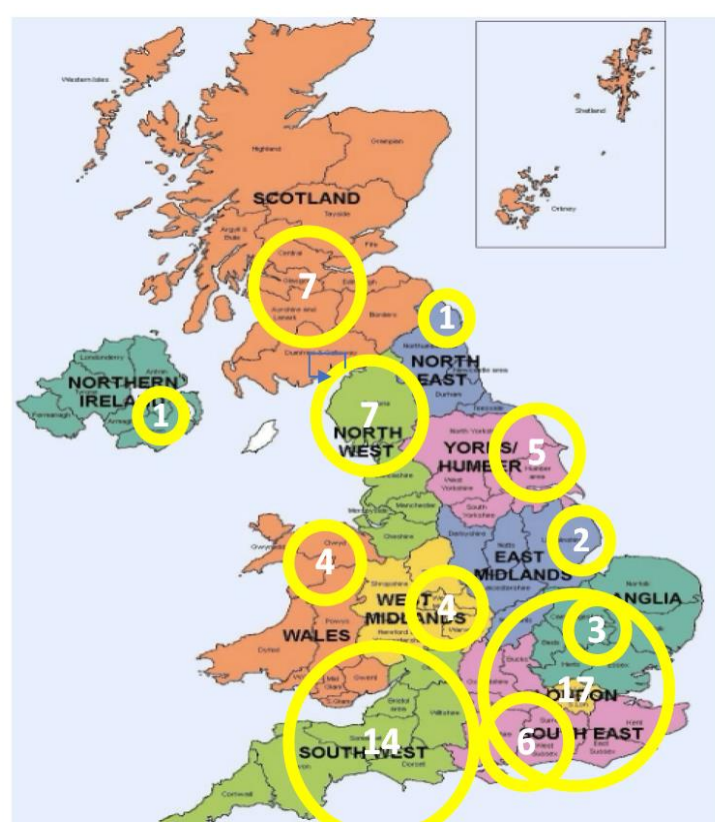


Figure 2. Geographical distribution of participants

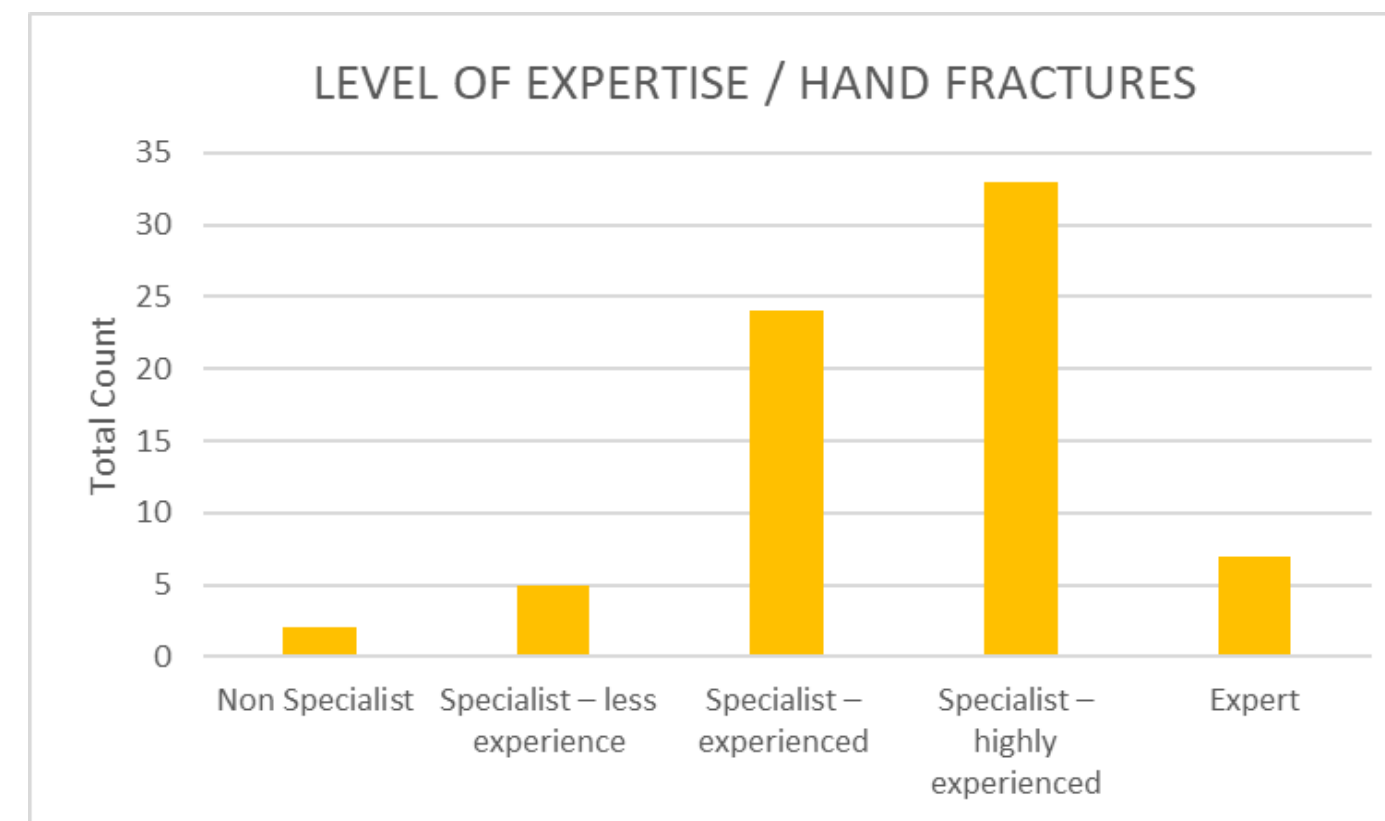


Figure 3. Self-reported clinical expertise of survey participants

Scoping Review

Clinician Survey – high agreement*

* Defined as ≥ 50% rated "definitely yes"

Clinical Assessment

No evidence

- Assessment of finger alignment (deviation, rotation, scissoring)
- Initial assessment content
- Assessment of patients' goals
- Factors affecting bone healing
- Influence of emotional, social & economic factors on outcome

Imaging

Plain radiograph interpretation reliable across various level of experience

- IRMER training
- Supervised interpretation
- Relevant imaging interpretation courses
- Knowledge indications for additional tests
- Measurement of fracture characteristics (e.g. angle, shortening, etc.)

Treatment decision

Surgical vs non-surgical = reliable
Studies rely heavily on imaging

- Red flags for cases requiring surgery
- Best immobilisation / protection methods
- Factors affecting decision for treatment
- Anticipated outcome
- Risks and benefits of treatment options
- Evidence of joint decision making
- Integration clinical assessment AND imaging in treatment choice

General competencies

Experience influences treatment decision

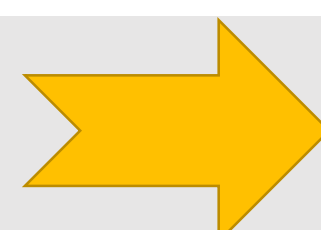
- Evidence of CPD on closed hand fractures
- Mentoring

Learning points

Higher agreement on clinical assessment items despite lack of evidence
Imaging knowledge and skills: proficiency early in training / reliable across experience
Treatment decision studies based on imaging – clinicians recognize other factors
Experience measured in years or banding: disagreement despite evidence

Next step

Delphi study (completed)



Stay tuned

1. References available in the scoping review