# Tites IMMERSIVE HEALING: VIRTUAL REALITY EMBODIMENT VIDEOS

AND CHRONIC PAIN REDUCTION IN HAND OSTEOARTHRITIS

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### BACKGROUND

- "Embodiment" in Virtual Reality (VR) is when people take bodily ownership of virtual limbs through a first-person point of view<sup>1,2</sup>
- 360° Spherical Video-based Virtual Reality (SVVR) can create a sense of embodiment in users<sup>3,4,5</sup>
- Previous research exploring interventions that facilitate embodiment demonstrate pain-reducing effects<sup>6,7,8</sup>

### PURPOSE

Evaluate analgesic effects of 360° SVVR embodimentinducing videos in adults with hand osteoarthritis.

### **METHODS**

#### PRE-POST DESIGN (n=10)

#### **Pre-Intervention** Numeric Rating Scale

- (NRS)9 Purdue Pegboard Test
- $(PPT)^{10}$
- Immersive Tendency Questionnaire (ITQ)<sup>11</sup>

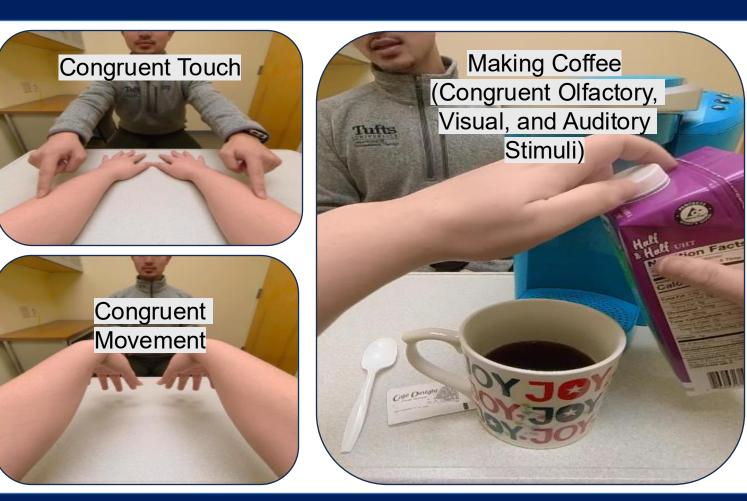


Nonparametric Wilcoxon signed-rank test for significance and effect size *r* (*small 0.10-0.29*; *moderate 0.30-0.49*; *large* ≥ 0.50)

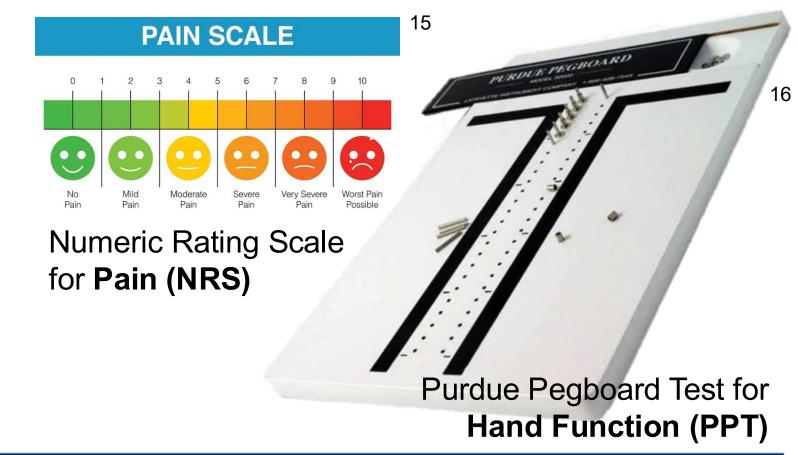
### **Post-Intervention**

- Numeric Rating Scale
- Purdue Pegboard Test (PPT)
- **Embodiment Questionnaire**  $(EQ)^{12}$
- Igroup Presence Questionnaire (IPQ)<sup>13</sup>
- Virtual Reality Sickness Questionnaire (VRSQ)<sup>14</sup>

## 360° SVVR VIDEOS

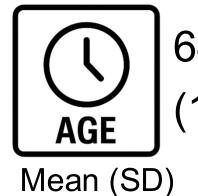


### NRS & PPT



### RESULTS

### PRE-POST STUDY (n=10)



64.0 yrs (12.3)

\*p=.02

r= .74

± 1.5



Pain Ratings (NRS)

± 1.3

**Average Pain Rating** 

\*p=.01

r= .80

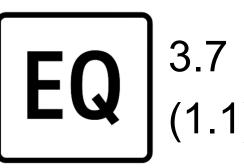
10 Females (100%)

Wodern Speer Wer green

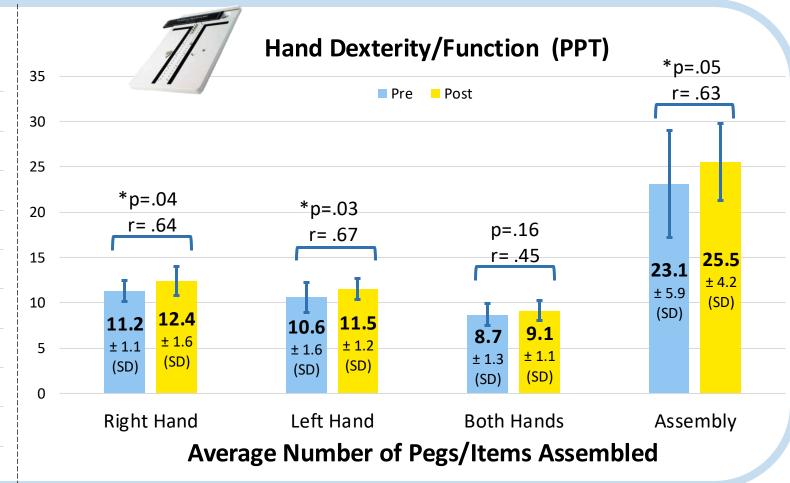
± 1.1

p=.16

r= .44



Mean (SD): Measured on a 1-7 Likert scale



#### SINGLE-SUBJECT ABA DESIGN (n=2)

~5-mins 360° SVVR

### Stage A1: Baseline (7 Days)

(NRS): Morning, Afternoon, Evening for each day

**Stage B: Intervention (7 Days)** 

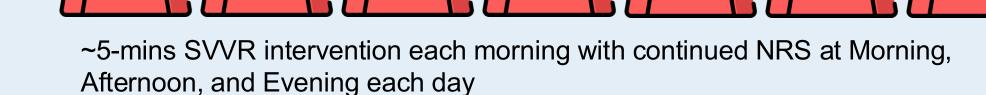
studies: Pain average 4+ within the past week

\*recruited from

Pre-Post Arm\*

Inclusion for both





### Stage A2: Withdrawal of Intervention (7 Days)

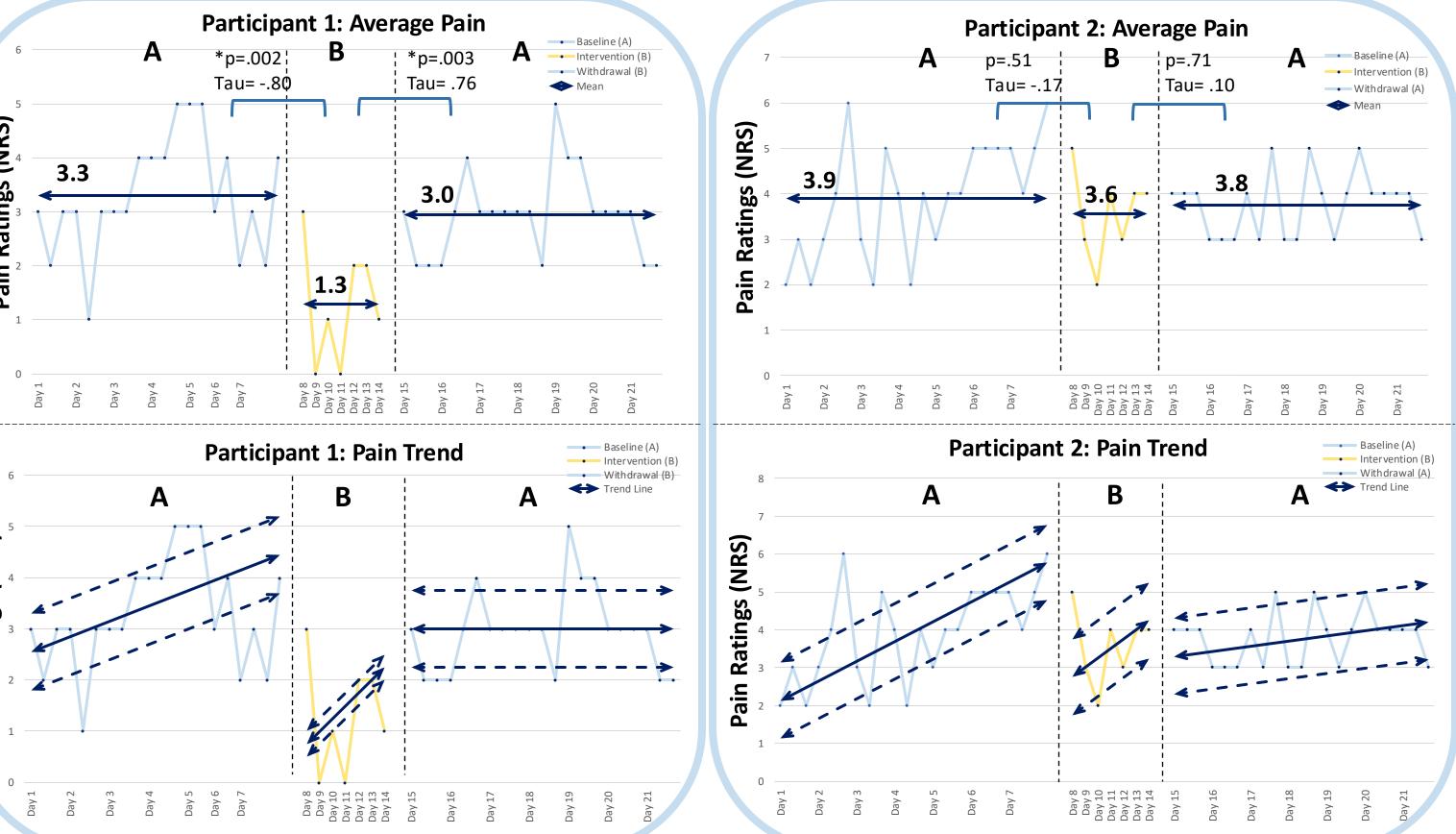
(NRS): Morning, Afternoon, Evening for each day

#### **Analysis Method:**

Visual analysis using the Mean and Median trend lines (& stability envelopes), with Tau to determine the significance (effect sizes) between A-B-A stages.

#### **SINGLE-SUBJECT STUDY** (n=2)

± 0.1



# RESULTS (CONT.)

### PRE-POST STUDY (n=10)

- Pain significantly decreased during (p= .02) and after SVVR intervention (p= .01) with a large effect (r=.74; r=.80)
- No significant changes at the end of visit (p= .16)
- Hand Function significantly increased after SVVR for right/left hand & assembly tasks (p≤ .05)
- Participants were moderately embodied ( $\bar{x}$ = 3.7) and present ( $\bar{x}$ = 4.1) from the SVVR

#### **SINGLE-SUBJECT STUDY** (n=2)

- Participant 1 showed statistically significant reduced pain with SVVR intervention (p= .002)
- Participant 2 showed no significant change (p= .51)—demonstrating individual variability

### DISCUSSION

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

360° SVVR may provide temporary pain relief in hand osteoarthritis—more studies with larger sample sizes are needed to better understand SVVR embodiment effects with this population

### RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS

- Explore optimal "SVVR dosage" for pain reduction through embodiment
- Larger sample sizes needed to support generalizability

#### **SVVR DESIGN IMPROVEMENTS**

- Extend 360° SVVR to 8-10 minutes for better immersion & embodiment
- Use predictable movements & handedness-specific videos
- Introduce light touch and olfactory sensations early in SVVR to enhance embodiment

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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REFERENCES