This study was conducted in partial fulfillment of the doctoral degree in occupational therapy at Thomas Jefferson University (TJU), Philadelphia PA and was approved by TJU Institutional Review Board, IRB # 18D.513

**Purpose and Introduction**

- To understand the lived experiences of spinal cord injury (SCI) as described by two people with SCI through life story interviewing.
- Narrative inquiry is a useful method to study the experience of living with a disability because story-telling allows individuals to explain how their conditions have influenced their everyday lives. 1,3,7,12,13,14
- Existing narrative studies have explored lived experiences of SCI and the distinct perspectives of men and women, athletes with SCI, and caregivers of persons with SCI. 3,8,12,13,15
- This study may be among the first accounts of life stories of adults with pediatric onset SCI. *The two participant’s names have been changed to protect their identities.*

**Approach**

**Qualitative method using narrative inquiry**

**Life Story Interviews**

- Conducted by two trained OT doctoral students (first and second authors).
- Questions adapted from Atkinson’s The Life Story Interview2
- Interviews (n=15) over 16 weeks, two hours each, audio-recorded (Fig. 1)
- Transcribed verbatim

**Analysis**

**Narrative analysis of eventful data**

- Constant recursive movement between emerging plot made up of details most relevant to the study’s purpose and the data as a whole16 (Fig. 2)
- Narrative smoothing1

- Some details from the interviews were omitted while specific details that aligned with the purpose of the study were integrated in order to tell a coherent story.1,12

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**References**