Contribution of occupational therapy intervention with stroke patients


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The analysis results make it possible to suggest positions better adapted to rising: firstly in places accessible to the public, secondly in private places depending on the orthopedic or neurological pathology, and also on the corpulence of the individuals.

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Importance of assessing manual wheelchair skill in disabled persons

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Introduction.– Providing wheelchairs tailored to personal needs, not only increases the mobility of the disabled person, but initiates the process of accessing the world of education, work and social life. Wheelchair skills increase the autonomy and self-esteem of disabled persons who learn how to use their wheelchair as an extension of their body.

Subjects and methods.– We recruited 100 wheelchair users in the region of Manouba, we asked them to complete a questionnaire that bears on several aspects (age, sex, disease, satisfaction with their wheelchairs and skills). We calculated the score of abilities using the Wheelchair Skills Program (WSP) in which 17 items of evaluation among 57 were studied. Satisfaction was assessed by the scale of satisfaction with technical assistance.

Results.– The average age of the wheelchair users was 19.5 years. The sex ratio was 1.5. The deficiencies reported requiring the use of wheelchairs were tetraplegia (52%), paraplegia (34%) and hemiplegia (4%). The average duration of use of wheelchairs was 4.2 years, ranging from one to 20 years. The WSP score showed that 16% of users had a skills score better than 50%, 14% of them had a score from 30% to 50%, 70% of users had a score under 30% and one user felt he did not have find any difficulty while using his wheelchair. The satisfaction evaluation showed that 50% of users were dissatisfied with their wheelchairs.

Discussion and conclusion.– The use of wheelchairs is a complex combination of skills that seem to determine the overall functioning of persons with disabilities of the lower limbs. Our work shows a severe limitation of wheelchair skills, highlighting the importance of a Wheelchair Skills Training Program to improve the use of wheelchairs and favor better social inclusion of disabled persons.


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Determining efficient places for grab bars in public toilets for disabled persons

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Grab bars, most usually used to facilitate the transfer of elderly people on the toilet seat, consist of a bar presenting a nearby horizontal part at arm-rest level. There is no normalized grab bar position known to efficacy help disabled people to stand up.

The aim of this study is the search for standard places where grab bars are more effective than those which are generally used. In a first experiment, 34 disabled patients were invited to get up from the toilet seat, using suction grab bars placed according to their spontaneous movement. Anthropometrics and hand positions were measured. Final grab bars were positioned according to the results of the statistical analyses. In a second experiment used as control, 20 of the patients with the same profile were invited to use these new bars for their transfer and to get up again. The level of their difficulties was recorded. Patient comments were also noted. The results were analyzed by nonparametric tests using the exact method of permutations (StatXact® software). Multivariante descriptive statistics were implemented with SPAD® software.

The analysis results make it possible to suggest positions better adapted to rising: firstly in places accessible to the public, secondly in private places depending on the orthopedic or neurological pathology, and also on the corpulence of the individuals.