Impact of a multidisciplinary rehabilitation program on the “preparing meals” in people with acquired brain injury (ABI)

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Keywords: Program; Participation; Activity “Preparing meals”

Background.– Cognitive and behavioural difficulties following acquired brain injury (ABI) may lead to severe limitations in activities and restrictions in participation. A holistic, intensive and multidisciplinary ABI rehabilitation program was developed at the Pitié-Salpêtrière hospital, France (5 days/week for 7 weeks).

Objective.– To document the program’s effect on the activity “preparing meals”.

Method.– Repeated measurements pre-program (T1 and T2) and post-program (T3, T4, T5 up to 6 months) with 7 subjects using the Cooking Task (CT) (Chevignard, 2000), Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) (Bottari, 2009), and Measure of Life Habits (LIFE-H) (Noreau, 2002).

Results.– Using the two standard deviation band method and “non-overlap of all pairs” (NAP) methods for small n design, significant differences in pre and post program measures were found for the total number of errors in CT (6/7 subjects), the need of assistance (IADL). The results of the LIFE-H suggest an overall improvement in the activity “preparing a meal” after the rehabilitation program.

Keywords: Accessibility; Activity; Participation; Evaluation; Treatment

Malls are used for various activities: for shopping, running errands, and also for entertainment and socialization. Consequently, they represent environments where persons with a disability may wish to go or return to following rehabilitation. As such, some might argue that malls are important environments to use to optimize rehabilitation patients’ social participation.

Objective.– We examined whether rehabilitation professionals used shopping malls to evaluate and treat persons with a disability and if so, how this environment was used. We were also interested in the factors contributing to or hindering a mall’s use in rehabilitation.

Methods.– Fifteen rehabilitation professionals from multiple disciplines participated in a 3-hour focus groups lead by a facilitator using an interview protocol.

Results.– Ten professionals reported using the mall regularly in their practice for different objectives such as developing their client’s way-finding or walking abilities. They were more likely to use a mall when patient goals included going to the mall. Factors influencing mall use included the accessibility of the malls’ interior (e.g. ease of circulation), respect of the clients’ needs, and transportation to the mall.

Discussion.– Malls may provide an appropriate ecologically valid environment in which to evaluate and treat persons with a disability.

Keywords: Environmental factors; Stroke; Participation; Devices; Caregiver

Introduction.– The aim of this study is to deepen the knowledge about the importance of the use of and the interaction between environmental factors in relation to promoting the participation of people living at home after stroke.

Method.– A structured interview provides quantitative data concerning devices, family members aids, and services, and qualitative data concerning the importance of the aids, in seven participation domains, used by 49 people in Southern Switzerland after stroke.

Results.– The family is the most important environmental factor. The devices are seen as “important” or “very important” and are used for personal mobility and hygiene. Services are mostly used in the activities related to hygiene and leisure. Combinations of usage patterns were found in all activity groups.

Discussion.– Devices, family members and services are in a complex relationship. A stable communication system between all stakeholders is needed to take advantage of the promoting nature of environmental factors. The role of the occupational therapist is to ensure the maximum benefit for user participation.

Keywords: Stroke; Participation; Devices; Caregiver