

12th Global Neurologists Meeting on

NEUROLOGY AND NEUROSURGERY

September 21-22, 2018 Singapore

Movement therapy as a behavioral neurorehabilitation after traumatic brain injury

Minoo Sharbafshaaer

Islamic Azad University of Zahedan, Iran

Each year, millions people in Iran are seen in a hospital for a traumatic brain injury. Those with moderate-to-severe traumatic brain injury frequently go through a course of inpatient neurorehabilitation prior to discharge back into the community. Traumatic brain injury is an unexpected and heavily disabling event occurring mostly in young adults, frequently leading to devastating consequences for the individual and his relatives. Therapeutic alternatives are limited and neurological rehabilitation remains relatively confidential. Besides, therapeutic success when noticed is mostly empirical and need to be scientifically clarified. Movement therapy is a rather novel therapeutic approach where by the therapist uses the movement practices as a therapeutic intervention or support, that conceivably promote plastic changes in brain circuits. The consolidation of motor and non-motor improvements depends partly on the congruence of the session frequency and content. Movement therapy is an emerging specialized rehabilitation treatment, performed on the special direction of an accredited health professional (e.g. physical therapists, occupational therapists, psychometricians, speech-language pathologists, clinical psychologists and others). The participants were up to 16 years-old who suffered a severe traumatic brain injury. Movement therapy make different levels of the sensorimotor and cognitive spheres such as coordination and balance control, fine motor control, attention and working memory, self-initiative and self-awareness. Movement therapy produces a countervailing alteration in the contingencies of reinforcement. The intervention has been used successfully to substantially improve motor deficits after stroke, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis with cerebral palsy in a pediatric population and for language impairment in traumatic brain injury. The movement therapy consists primarily of standard behavior-analytic methods. It produces a marked plastic brain change that is correlated with its therapeutic effect and therefore provides an example of the way in which behavior change can contribute to a profound remodeling of the brain. Movement therapy may be viewed as a behavioral neurorehabilitation.

Biography

Minoo Sharbafshaaer has completed her MS in Cognitive Science from Kurdistan University, Iran. she graduated BA psychology from Sistan and Baluchistan University, Iran. She has published more than 16 papers in valuable journals and has been serving as International Advisory Board of the IIER, Editorial Board of The Journal of Medical Research (JMR) and Associate Editorial of Psychology and Behavioral Science International Journal (PBSIJ).

Minoosharbafe@gmail.com

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