Factors affecting functional outcomes during inpatient rehabilitation for children with Traumatic Brain Injury

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Methods

• Six databases were searched using a thorough search strategy
• Inclusion criteria:
  - Children with a TBI, attending inpatient rehabilitation with specified functional outcomes pre and post rehabilitation
• Two researchers screened title and abstract, followed by full text
• Data abstraction tool was completed by two researchers
• The Joanna Briggs Institute quality appraisal tool was completed by two researchers (1)
Results

• The results showed that functional outcome following inpatient rehabilitation may be affected by:
  - Glasgow Coma Scale score at time of injury
  - Functional outcome on admission
  - Duration of unconsciousness
  - Delay in transfer to a rehabilitation unit

• All of the included articles showed an improvement in functional outcome from admission to discharge which is consistent with prior research in children with ABI (2)

• Individual studies have found physiotherapy intensity, length of stay, presence of spasticity may affect functional outcome
Conclusions

• The review showed that functional outcome following inpatient rehabilitation may be affected by GCS at time of injury, functional outcome on admission, duration of unconsciousness and delay in transfer to a rehabilitation unit.

• The review identifies factors that clinicians can easily identify that may aid goal setting and discharge planning when caring for children with TBI during inpatient rehabilitation.
References


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