Comparison of patient education in rehabilitation of spinal cord injuries in Switzerland and in low economic countries

Karin Roth RN
Christa Schwager RN
The integrative bio-psycho-social Model of Functioning, Disability and Health

Health condition (disorder or disease)

Body functions
Body structures

Activities

Participation

Environmental factors

Personal factors
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Health condition

Rehabilitation in Switzerland

- aetiology of SCI
- level of injury
- high standard medical care
- all possibilities in nursing and therapeutic interventions
- good treatment of complications and secondary disorders
- normal life expectancy

Rehabilitation in low economic countries

- poor medical care
  - nutrition
  - vaccinations
  - hygiene
- missing knowledge of treatment
- short life expectancy
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  - Personal factors
Body function and Body structures

Differences of rehabilitation and patient education

- medical treatment – conservative management or surgery
- level of injury
- bowel management
- bladder management
- spasticity
- hand function
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activities and participation

- mobility – transfers
  - influence on mobility from environmental factors
    - bed to wheelchair - mattress on the ground to wheelchair
- bladder- and bowel management
  - influence of available aids on evacuation techniques
- self care
  - preventing pressure ulcers under the influence of climate, available substantial resources
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- Environmental factors
- Personal factors
### Environmental Factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient education in Switzerland</th>
<th>Patient education in low economic countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• existent structural and substantial resources for everybody (insurance, financial support)</td>
<td>• missing or non affordable structural and substantial resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• professional home care</td>
<td>• care depending on family members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• high education standard – influence for patient education</td>
<td>• missing school education – difficulty for patient education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• good accessibility of environment</td>
<td>• environment not accessible for wheelchair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• general medical knowledge of SCI</td>
<td>• poor knowledge of SCI</td>
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<tr>
<td>• possibility of return to work</td>
<td>• poor acceptance of disability in community</td>
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