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Factors of Inexpertness-Based on Analysis of a Case-

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Background

Although therapists often encounter inexpertness, the definition of inexpertness is ambiguous.

Purpose

This study aims to analyze the phenomenon of inexpertness, focusing on a case, and extracting factors causing it.

Method

This study adopted the follow method:

1. A total of eight occupational therapists and speech therapists were asked to enumerate their experiences concerning inexpertness, and the enumerated experiences were categorized.
2. The obtained categories were classified into the extrapyramidal system, limbkinetic apraxia, and sensory disturbance.
3. The case adopted in this study was a patient suffering from multiple cerebral infarction and corona radiate infarction with mild paralysis. This case was examined using the above three classifications.

Results

The obtained results were as follows:

1. The causes of inexpertness were summarized into the following eight factors: (a) lack of smoothness (e.g., use of gears with excessive strength, tremor, and dysmetria); (b) a problem with speed and timing (e.g., start delay and gap in movement between the upper limb and the fingers); (c) too many mistakes (e.g., failure to grasp, drop, and spill); (d) difficulty in approaching an object (e.g., maladjustment of direction and distance); (e) poor efficiency (e.g., decreases in turning force, holding power, and operability due to improper position of fingers during a grasping operation); (f) paradoxical use; (g) poor in correction and fine adjustment; and (h) paradoxical operation of a tool which requires specific finger movements.
2. Factors (a), (b), and (d) were classified into the limbkinetic apraxia, factors (e)-(h) were classified into the extrapyramidal system, and factor (3) was considered a common factor.
3. The characteristics of the movements in the case were:
 - (1) The patient could hold a knob.
 - (2) The patient depended on the position and direction of a tool.
 - (3) Based on the above results, inexpertness of the case was caused by factors belonging to the extrapyramidal system, i.e., (a), (b), and (d); and those belonging to the limbkinetic apraxia, i.e., (e)-(h).

Conclusion

This study suggested that different types of inexperience were caused by different factors. In order to perform occupational therapy effectively, analysis of the causative factors is essential.