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Spina Bifida (re)habilitation in Brazil and the focus on functionality in the long term

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Experience in practice of treatment based on principles of occupational therapy with children with spina bifida in Brazil, has been taken as something global, which involves the physical, mental, sensorial, and social areas. By the passing of the years, new techniques have been used to promote more quality of life to these children and their families, and one of them are the spina surgeries for alignment of kyphosis and/or scoliosis.

Surgeries for correction of deformities such as kyphosis and scoliosis, used by the physicians, on patients with spina bifida includes the goal to completely straighten the posture of this population. Professionals of health must be aware to their clients and discuss which can be the functional consequences to that person in the long term when a surgery for completely straighten of spinal deformities is done, and as a consequence it makes influence on upper limbs biomechanics.

To discuss the importance of occupational therapists as the professionals who makes an assessment of a children's development and general conditions, analises and stablishes treatment goals which are important to favour and promote the maximum level of independence and functionality on the present moment; and that who looks at the children and anticipates prognosis of functionality, therefore stimulate the important areas for him to become or continue functional on the future.

Children with spina bifida are lower levels of independence when compaired to it's peers without dysfunction, and the deformities, as well as the correction surgeries, can be factors that negatively influences functionality and indepedece on activity daily living in the long term.

Advances on surgical techinques require of occupational therapists continual changes in rehabilitation goals and perspectives to that client on his future, what requires flexibility on the client treatment. This subject of treating the children today thinking about her future let professionals thinking about treating the client today with a macro vision to what will this citizen be on society tomorrow.

Keywords: Experience, Subjectivity and Everyday; Occupation, Theory and Practice; Deformities and Functionality.

Scope/ field: Physical Health

Age group: children and teenagers