

0954

**Minimal Conscious State (MCS), Two-year follow-up: recovery, independence and community participation level after inpatient program discharge.**

M I Ron, L Drault, V Cremonte, I Aranguren  
*FLENI, Buenos Aires, Argentina*

Currently, there are few research studies on MCS recovery, independence and community participation level achieved after discharge as a result of TBI.

Objective: record/register independence and community participation level in patients that remained at least one month and then emerged from MCS after two years from inpatient program discharge.

During 2004-2007 fifty-three patients with TBI were included in the sensory-motor stimulation program. Only seventeen emerged from MCS. Giacino defined MCS as condition of severely altered consciousness in which minimal but definite behavioral evidence of self or environment awareness is demonstrated. Several diagnostic criteria have been proposed. At least one criterion should be present and occur on a reproducible or sustained basis to diagnose MCS: follows simple commands, gestural or verbal "yes/no" responses, intelligible verbalization; movements, that occur in contingent relation to relevant environmental stimulus and are not attributable to reflexive activity.

The following assessment instruments were used to characterise and monitor patients functioning: Coma Recovery Scale-Revised; Disability Rating Scale (DRS); Functional Independence Measure (FIM), Community Participation Questionnaire and Extended Glasgow Outcome Scale (GOS-E).

Results: at discharge from inpatient program the following average scores were obtained: FIM 57.5%, requiring assistance in most of Basic ADL; DRS 16% (Severe) ; and all patients were considered at an outcome category of Low Severe Disability according to GOS-E. At discharge the 17 patients returned to their home but did not participate in community activities. The Follow-up program was used after discharge to assess community participation level and work reintegration. Two years after discharge, 41% of the patients achieved "total" community participation and 47% were able to return to work or academic activity

Conclusion: this study shows evidence that the majority of these population continue improving their daily functioning after two years from the injury achieving high levels of community and work reintegration.

Contribution to our practice: it is necessary to develop specific rehabilitation approaches and effective therapeutic strategies. Last but not least, take into account the valuable data that the follow-up program provides to our practice not only for investigation purposes but also to suggest relevant intervention strategies.