

The mnemonic object as a facilitator of the learning transfer

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Introduction: Learning modifies behavior through knowledge and expresses itself on the success of the clinical practice. On the Occupational Therapy interventions we aim the transfer of learning from the controlled environment to home and work situations. Environmental facilitators factors as mnemonic object are based on the learning by association methodology: the formation of associative bonds or connections throughout clinical experience memory into another environment.

Objective: Verify the efficiency of the mnemonic object - magnet - as complementary technique of the chronic pain management.

Methodology: The mnemonic object was idealized, built and available in ambulatory attendance for the chronic pain management in a University Hospital in Brazil. The criterion of selection to the group was the presence of chronic pain. The procedures included activities and the construction of an object about the educative intervention theme in Occupational Therapy. At the end of every procedure the magnet was handled to each participant. Two months after the last session, in order to know the learning transfer, was made and individual, semi-structured interview, seeking to know the possible association between the mnemonic object and the learning transfer to the daily life.

Results: The answers indicated 90% of memory of the themes approached during the OT sessions. This memory has its roots on the object, where 72% modified their daily lives with an increase on the social activities. Moreover, the mnemonic object acted as a facilitator on the learning by association and facilitated the memory of occupational therapeutic objectives. The reports mostly concerned improving self-esteem, self-image and operational matters.

Discussion: When the customer participates on the object construction, the learning is improved. Even if not all participants effectively associated directly the mnemonic object to the session themes, some items were mentioned. Hypothesis try to explain the learning transfer partiality: miss-constructed object; communication interference in the group; less expressive objects.

Conclusion: the use of the mnemonic object is an effective tool on the learning by association as a leading bond as a new strategy of the chronic pain management.

Contribution to the practice: New tool of intervention for learning appropriation.