

Learning Objectives

MedBridge

Acute Brain Injury & Disorders of Consciousness: Assessment & Intervention

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Course Objectives:

- Identify pathophysiology and complications associated with acute brain injury and integrate knowledge to apply clinically
- Be knowledgeable of outcome measures used with people following brain injury during the acute phase
- Identify common impairments underlying functional deficits and will design effective treatment plans to address areas of need

Chapter 1: Pathophysiology and Acute Brain Injury

This chapter addresses the early days following brain injury. Learners will explore patient management in the intensive care unit and how the priorities of care shift as patients achieve medical stability. Categories of disorders of consciousness will be addressed including assessment tools and signs of emerging awareness.

Chapter Objectives:

- Identify pathophysiology associated with acute brain injury and connect common areas and types of injuries with clinical presentation
- Be aware of primary and secondary effects of brain injury and how to address via physical therapy
- Predict prognosis for recovery based on early presentation
- Be familiar with common complications and contraindications to treatment
- Understand different levels of disorders of consciousness

Chapter 2: Assessments of Impairments and Functional Limitations

This chapter examines common tools used early in recovery including the Glasgow Coma Scale, the Coma Recovery Scale and the Ranchos Los Amigos (RLA) Scale of Cognitive Functioning. Learners will gain understanding of the categories of recovery included in disorders of consciousness (DOCs) and RLA stages and how to assess patients during these stages of recovery.

Chapter Objectives:

- Understand different levels of disorders of consciousness and recognize hallmark signs of each and implications for treatment
- Be knowledgeable of components of a complete physical therapy assessment including recommended outcome measures for people in RLA I-III
- Recognize signs of emerging consciousness
- Be aware of potential family issues and needed referrals at this stage

Chapter 3: Intervention

This chapter highlights the many areas of potential impairment following brain injury including medical communication, sensory, visual, cognitive, behavioral and motor. Learners will apply knowledge to the case of Andy and gain insight into expectations and prognosis based on his case.

Chapter Objectives:

- Examine areas of potential impairment following brain injury and how these lead to activity limitations
- Discuss interventions used to address impairments and functional limitations following brain injury in the acute setting
- Recognize the impact of environment on effectiveness of treatment session and know how to structure to optimize time with patient