

Brain Injury Rehabilitation with an Urban Hispanic Population

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New York City Brain Injury Statistics

- 27, 691 hospitalizations for TBI annually
- 64% classified as “mild”
- 36% classified as “moderate” to “severe”
- 1,772 - 3,545 mild (10% - 20% of cases)
- 9,415 moderate to severe
- Does not include other etiologies

New York City Hispanic Population

- Last decade increase of 58% in U.S.A.
- 25% - 28% of greater NYC population
- 2.2 million out of 8 million
- 6,000 - 7,000 TBIs annually (extrapolated)

Common Characteristics of NYC Hispanic Population

- Language/acclturation barriers
- Limited/poor education
- Lesser-skilled employment
- Lower socio-economic status
- Fewer economic resources
- Decreased access to medical/mental health services (Perez-Arce & Puente, 1998)

Rusk Outpatient Neuropsychology Service

- 130-140 adults at any given time
- 10% - 15% Hispanic
- One-half primarily Spanish speaking with primary Hispanic culture identification

Neuropsychological Rehabilitation Considerations for Hispanic

- Patient and spousal roles
- Family constituents
- Economic/income factors
- Living/environmental conditions
- Religious values/spirituality
- English language/acclimation limitations
- Reactions to authority

Neuropsychological Rehabilitation Considerations for Hispanic

- Immigration status
- Sexuality
- Privacy
- Program consistency
- Education/literacy
- Occupation/work history
- Neuropsychological results

Neuropsychological Rehabilitation Considerations for Hispanic

- Social-Medical-Legal Needs
 - Social service benefits
 - Transportation
 - Legal system
 - Medical referrals, prescriptions
 - Medical information/advice
 - Unawareness of medications, diagnoses, treatments, surgeries, etc.

Case Presentation

- 60-year-old Chilean male w/ TBI
- Overall considerations
- Injury profile
 - physical
 - cognitive
 - emotional
 - behavioral/social/familial
- Neuropsychological profile

Conclusions

- Need for comprehensive rehabilitation programs for Hispanics in NYC
- Establishment of a network for sharing resources, referrals, experiences, and data
- Multi-center, integrated treatment services
- Community consultation/education
- Increased service access

Recommendations

- Provision of comprehensive brain injury assessment and treatment services
- Staff
 - Knowledge of brain injury sequelae
 - Spanish-language capability
 - Knowledge of diverse Hispanic cultures
 - Social service workers for benefits counseling and education, provision of social services

Recommendations

- Referral to selected specialized services
 - Psychiatric consultation/follow-up
 - Substance abuse
 - Family intervention services
- Acceptance of wide range of payment sources

Footnote

- Hispanics are not a unitary population. As with any Hispanic community, NYC Hispanics comprise a multi-national group, with vast differences in cultural/social backgrounds, linguistic subtleties, and personal and family values.