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The ABCs of Back to School: Navigating Reintegration After a Spinal Cord Injur

Topic: Miscellaneous

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BACKGROUND

Returning to school after a spinal cord injury (SCI) presents significant challenges for children and teenagers. This presentation explores the feasibility of developing a standardized protocol to support their reintegration into education. A structured approach is necessary to address medical, psychological, and logistical concerns, ensuring a smooth transition that promotes academic success and social inclusion.

METHODS

A descriptive study was conducted through retrospective analysis of patients who underwent inpatient rehabilitation at a private facility. The study examined the rehabilitation process, steps taken to facilitate school reintegration, and the key facilitators and barriers encountered in the South African setting. Data collection focused on medical records, rehabilitation plans, and follow-up assessments to evaluate outcomes and identify recurring challenges.

RESULTS

Findings highlight a range of factors influencing successful school reintegration. Key facilitators included early collaboration between medical teams, educators, and families, as well as individualized education plans (IEPs) and assistive technology. Barriers included limited accessibility in school environments, lack of teacher training on SCI-related needs, and psychosocial challenges such as peer interactions.

A comprehensive reintegration protocol is essential to address the diverse needs of children with SCI returning to school.

CONCLUSION

Establishing standardized guidelines can help streamline the transition process, enhance support systems, and improve long-term educational and social outcomes. Future research should focus on developing evidence-based strategies to optimize reintegration and ensure equitable access to education for children with SCI.

Statement of Disclosures

None

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