

CEREBRAL HAPPENINGS

Newsletter of the Brain Injury Special Interest Group

Issue 1, 2013

May 2013

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Heidi Roth, PT, DHS, NCS
BI SIG Chair

Greetings Brain Injury SIG,

Welcome to the BI SIG's quarterly newsletter. First, I would like to thank the entire BI SIG and committee members for the hard work and dedication to promoting brain injury awareness, education and research. We would also like to thank Natalie Sibley, DPT, NCS and Carolyn Tassini, DPT, NCS for their interesting and informative presentation on "Physical Therapy Management for Patients with Disorders of Consciousness" at CSM in San Diego this past January. We are already getting excited for the BI SIG sponsored sessions at CSM 2014 in Las Vegas. We continue to strive to serve your interests, so please send us topic areas or speakers you feel would be beneficial for future presentations.

Another exciting advancement is the release of the Neurology Section's outcome measure recommendations developed by the TBI Evaluation Database to Guide Effectiveness (EDGE) Task Force. Outcome measures were selected and reviewed by the taskforce in collaboration with Rehabilitation Measures Database (RMD). EDGE documents provide TBI specific, rated recommendations for outcome measures specifying the use in different practice settings, recommendations for inclusion into entry-level PT education, as well as research. A thorough description, summary of psychometric and clinical properties of each outcome measure are all included in the RMD. These recommendations are designed to guide clinicians, educators and researchers to best serve the TBI population. Please take a moment and be aware of this amazing resource that is posted on the APTA Neurology Section's website!

We are continuing working on projects to serve the brain injury community. The BI SIG's website is consistently updated with a variety of resources for clinicians and community members, in addition to the latest evidence through items such as relevant journal article summaries. We are continuing to develop educational materials available for your clients on various topics related to brain injury. If you have a suggested topic area for these advocacy papers please send them our way and keep an eye out for these to be posted to the BI SIG's website!

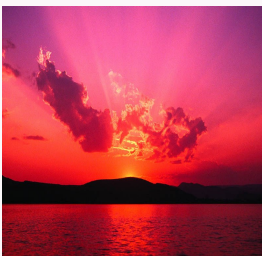
As with all organizations, we are only as strong as our membership. I want to thank everyone who has generously volunteered their expertise and time in the past months, which allows us to develop new and foster ongoing projects. Remember, everyone can offer something! We would love to hear from you.

Warmest Regards,

Heidi Roth, PT, DHS, NCS



Summer NEWSLETTER



June 26-29 ,2013



Sign up today! →

J. Spargo and Associates handles registration for the APTA Conference and Exposition. Should you have questions regarding your registration, please call 877/585-6003 or e-mail at aptaregistration@jspargo.com.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMMING

Preconference:

Prevention Strategies for Activity-related Spinal Disorders: Recalibrating Your Clinical Tools

Spiraling health care costs, rising rates of chronic spine pain disorders and disability, and the need to focus on long-term solutions all dictate the need for prevention-oriented health care strategies. Intervention effectiveness depends on knowledge of the most relevant risk factors for each category, the clinical model utilized, skillful application of tools, and customization to the individual. This workshop will demonstrate how to recalibrate the application of 4 major clinical tools to a preventative strategy. The speaker will review the literature, discuss over 25 years of experience in developing prevention strategies, and build the case for physical therapy to occupy a leading role in disability prevention.

Main Conference:

Friday June 28, 2013

Evidence-based Practice for Vestibular Disorders: New Tests and Interventions for BPPV

This series will focus on evidence-based identification and physical therapy management of complex vestibular disorders in children and adults. The sessions are designed to provide advanced skills and knowledge to the clinician with experience in the treatment of vestibular disorders through didactic and experiential learning. The speakers will review the newest information related to BPPV, as well as tests, measures, effectiveness of interventions, and guidance for when the new examination and treatment techniques are indicated. Clinicians will be exposed

Saturday June 29, 2013

Anticipatory Postural Adjustments: Translating Research Findings to the Clinic

While clinicians routinely set goals of improving postural control when working with people with central nervous system pathology, do we specifically retrain anticipatory postural adjustments (APAs) to minimize postural instability and maintain balance? What are APAs? How are they altered or modified? Can we adapt research findings to create an APA intervention protocol? Through lecture, slides, and a video presentation, this workshop will provide a template for translating research findings into clinical correlates. The speakers will describe ongoing research studies designed to retrain APAs in people post stroke and with mild traumatic brain injury.

News and Noteworthy

Placebo-Controlled Trial of Amantadine for Severe Traumatic Brain Injury

Joseph T. Giacino, Ph.D., John Whyte, M.D., Ph.D., Emilia Bagiella, Ph.D., Kathleen Kalmar, Ph.D., Nancy Childs, M.D., Allen Khademi, M.D., Bernd Eifert, M.D., David Long, M.D., Douglas I. Katz, M.D., Sooja Cho, M.D., Stuart A. Yablon, M.D., Marianne Luther, M.D., Flora M. Hammond, M.D., Annette Nordenbo, M.D., Paul Novak, O.T.R., Walt Mercer, Ph.D., Petra Maurer-Karattup, Dr.Rer.Nat., and Mark Sherer, Ph.D.

N Engl J Med 2012; 366:819-826 [March 1, 2012](#) DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1102609

This study examined the use of amantadine to promote early functional recovery in patients with disorders of consciousness. The study included 184 patients who were vegetative or minimally conscious 4-16 weeks following TBI and undergoing in-patient rehabilitation. They found that amantadine did in fact accelerate the pace of functional recovery as compared to placebo medication in patients with disorders of consciousness.

Link to the full article: <http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMoa1102609>

Have you seen the New Neurology Section Website!

- Many useful features have been added to the Section web site including an abstract of the month!
- Look for the BI SIG articles July through September of 2013
- Keeping you connected! A goal of the BI SIG is to provide an area of resources for clinical practice. The sites below (any many more) are active on the BI SIG web page. Please contact us if you know of a great resource and we will add it!

Brain Injury Resource Center www.headinjury.com

Canadian Evidence-based Practice Guidelines for Moderate to Severe Brain Injury <http://www.abiebr.com/>

Center for Outcome Measurement in Brain Injury www.tbims.org/combi

Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center www.dvbic.org

National Center for Dissemination of Disability Research www.ncddr.org

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (CDC) www.cdc.gov/ncipc/tbi

National Center for PTSD www.ncptsd.va.gov

NIDRR Knowledge Translation Center <http://msktc.washington.edu/>

National Institutes of Health www.health.nih.gov

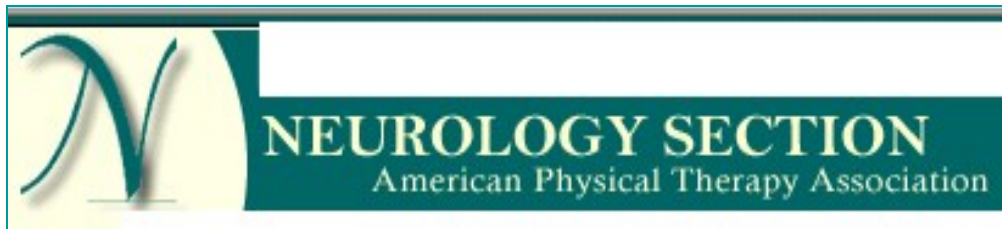
NINDS TBI Information Page www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/tbi/tbi.htm

The Brain Injury Network www.tbinet.org

The TBI Homepage www.tbihome.org/index.html

ThinkFirst Foundation www.thinkfirst.org/home.asp

United Kingdom National Practice Guidelines <http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/pubs/books/rehab-abi/rehab-abi.pdf>



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Please note there will be 2 open positions for the BI SIG in 2013-14:

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Vice Chair: Carolyn Grace Tassini, PT, DPT, NCS
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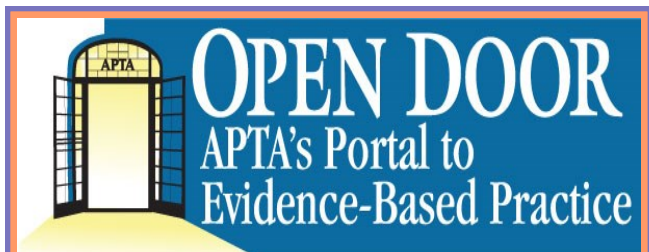
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