

EVALUATION AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY APPROACH IN CHILDREN WITH UPPER LIMB DEFICITS

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Abstract

Introduction:

Pediatric occupational therapy (OT) basis is understanding how a child’s motor performance develops, and how it is related to his/ her cognitive development. In National Teaching Centre for Children Neurorehabilitation “Dr. N. Robanescu”, OT focuses on minimizing injuries/ disease effects and on a child’s ability to function. Our target is to help every patient to reach his/ her full potential.

Material and methods:

Our specially trained OT therapists work with children who face different upper limb(s) impairments, due to developmental delays, neuromuscular conditions, sports injuries, and many other problems that affect a child’s ability to complete daily tasks.

Besides positive approaches, our therapists use cutting-edge evaluation tools and methods to improve the child’s motor skills, coordination, strength, and endurance.

Results:

In this work, there have been analyzed the most significant/ used evaluation scales and models for treatment of upper limb disabilities in children.

Conclusions:

Physicians and physical therapists work with occupational ones and/or other specialists to create a customized program which addresses each child’s unique needs, in order to increase range of motion, strength and flexibility, thus gaining specific skills (e.g. bathing, dressing and eating). This can be done for both patients and as part of an outpatient program.