LEARNING GOALS

- To develop advanced clinical practice skills in the area of pediatric wheelchair provision (B.1.8; collaboration)
- To develop advanced clinical practice skills in the area of postural care (B.1.8; collaboration)
- To review and expand my Spanish language skills to include basic medical terminology to use for the experiential component and as a practitioner.

OBJECTIVES

- To demonstrate competency in wheelchair service provision as measured by successful completion of the World Health Organization Basic skills course
- Compose portfolio of Experiential Component and Technology and Environment coursework to use in application of ATP certification from RESNA
- To complete a scoping review of the literature on postural care during sleep.
- To submit a review of literature for publication to a peer-reviewed journal
- To obtain experience in completing evaluations in Spanish with pediatric clients and families.
- Translate expert mentor’s manuscript on topic of postural care into Spanish.

ABSTRACT

Children with severe cerebral palsy have a tendency to remain in the same position for extended periods, with the longest episodes of immobility occurring throughout the night during sleep. This immobility combined with growth and gravity create body asymmetries which negatively affect the function and quality of life for these children. Left unabated, these physical asymmetries worsen and result in cardiopulmonary deficits and eventually premature death. The practice of twenty-four-hour postural care has emerged to counteract the forces that cause body asymmetry by placing children in customized, supported positions. Sleep conditions in this population are common yet underreported, and the effects of sleep cycles and positioning on children with this neuromuscular condition should be considered by medical professionals involved in the treatment of this population. Pertinent literature discussing twenty-four-hour postural care during sleep as well as prominent sleep disorders prevalent in this population were reviewed.

Article submitted to Journal of Child Neurology for publication consideration on March 29, 2016

EXERT OF TRANSLATION


Posturas y posicionamiento durante todo el día y la noche están inextricablemente unidas junto con la salud y la función de las personas con discapacidades motoras. Muchas de estas personas requieren dispositivos de movilidad con ruedas. Cuando no pueden fácilmente cambiar posición con frecuencia, las complicaciones que se derivan de la postura pueden ser graves (Pope, 2007). Conocimiento y análisis de las posturas habituales durante todo el día y la noche y el impacto resultante a nivel de la función del cuerpo es esencial. Esto nos permite entender las posiciones de asiento de las personas con deficiencias motoras y las implicaciones funcionales. Un ojo experimentado y exigente a menudo cuenta con estas similitudes entre supina y sentado posturas durante una evaluación de la estera.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project would not have been possible without the guidance of Teresa Plummer, PhD, OTR/L, ATP, CEAS, CAPS, and Tamara Kittleson-Aldred, MS, OTR/L, ATP/SMS.