

Specific aspects of rehabilitation in high paraplegia with respiratory therapy

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Abstract

Although basically the same rehabilitative goals are to be defined within an acute or further treatment, there are certain fields in which ventilated patients differ from non-ventilated patients. This concerns in particular the complex intensive medical issues of weaning and the constant monitoring until the patient is discharged. As a result, the definition of the shape, access and duration of ventilation is a fundamental treatment goal. Speech training under ventilation, and the decision as to whether a diaphragmatic stimulation is suitable as a ventilation form, also must be decided specifically for this patient group. Finally, the transition to home and the need for sustained care by a care qualified caregiver with all the necessary tools is a particularly detailed form of discharge management and requires extensive experience in the treatment of these patients. For these reasons, comprehensive treatment of these patients is only recommended at one of the German centers for paraplegics with ventilation sites.

Keywords: paraplegia, spinal cord injury, respiratory therapy, diaphragm stimulation, phrenic nerve stimulation, rehabilitation

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