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The Relationship Between Person Served Effort and Outcomes in Post-Acute ABI Rehabilitation

On With Life Annual Best Practice Conference  
April 8, 2022  
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Clinical Director

SMALL STEPS. GIANT STRIDES.

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**Topic List**

Effort...definitions and constructs

OWL / U of I Level of Effort Study Results

Treatment Design for Effort

- Person-Centered Rehabilitation
- EDSO Competencies



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**“Doing”  
Dreams**

How do we better define the climb?



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### Effort...What is it?

- Sometimes equated with "engagement."
- Sometimes equated with "participation."
- General agreement that it is not an independent construct, but rather the result of several constructs.
- Most widely accepted rating scale for effort in rehabilitation is the **Rehabilitation Intensity of Therapy Scale**.
- Not well studied...especially in post-acute brain injury rehabilitation.

ORIGINAL RESEARCH | VOLUME 26, ISSUE 8, SUPPLEMENT | 2022-2024, AUGUST 01, 2015

**Patient Effort in Traumatic Brain Injury Inpatient Rehabilitation: Course and Associations With Age, Brain Injury Severity, and Time Postinjury**

Ronald T. Seel, PhD, A, COT - John D. Comgen, PhD - Marcel P. Dijkers, PhD - Randal J. Sirost, MS - William Gamson, PhD - Sarah D. Hays, PhD - Show all authors

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### How do we conceptualize effort in brain injury rehabilitation?



- Cognitive and Emotional Factors**
  - Insight / Awareness
  - Attention (focused and selective)
  - Initiation / vigilance
  - Agitation / restlessness
  - Coping Skills
- Medical and Physical Factors**
  - Pain
  - Fatigue / Arousal
  - Medication-related factors
- Treatment Design**
  - Task Saliency
  - Therapeutic Alliance & Rapport
  - Person-Centered Rehabilitation

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### OWL Level of Effort (LoE) Scale

- Inter-rater reliability was assessed using 6, scenario-based assessments
- Reliability across all scenarios and therapists was 0.96.

7 maximal effort	max participation, fully engaged in treatment goals, full effort
6 maximal (minus) effort	max (minus) participation, partially engaged in goals, but insight may limit to some extent, nearly full effort
5 moderate (plus) effort	moderate (plus) participation, insight limits engagement, good effort
4 moderate (minus) effort	moderate (minus) participation, fatigue, insight and/or initiation adversely affect engagement, partial effort
3 minimal (plus) effort	minimal (plus) participation, little engagement in treatment goals due to cognitive and/or neurobehavioral challenges, some effort
2 minimal (minus) effort	minimal (minus) participation, insight, agitation, and/or distraction severely limit engagement, very little effort
1 no effort / passive	passive intervention, low arousal or severe agitation prevents engagement, no effort

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**OWL / University of Iowa Research Collaboration**

**An Observational Cohort Study of the Role of Level of Effort in Post-Acute Brain Injury Rehabilitation**

- David Anders, MS, CCC-SLP, CBIST
- Knute Carter, Ph.D.
- Daniel Logan, BS
- James Malec, Ph.D.
- Sarah Perry, MS
- Jean Shelton, MBA, FACHE, CBIS
- Joseph Walters, MS, CPHQ, CBIS

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**Objective, Design, & Outcome Measures**

**Objective:**

- Investigate the role of person served level of effort (LoE) on outcome in post-acute, inpatient brain injury.
- Is greater effort associated with more positive outcomes? To what degree?

**Design:**

- Observational cohort study

**Outcome Measures:**

- Mayo Portland Adaptability Inventory (MPAI-4)
- Supervision Rating Scale (SRS)

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**COMBI** The Center for Outcome Measurement in Brain Injury



**Mayo Portland Adaptability Inventory (MPAI-4)**

The MPAI is a measurement of current functional status of individuals with acquired brain injury (ABI) in the post-acute period of the recovery continuum.

**Ability Index**

- Examines sensory, motor and cognitive functioning

**Adjustment Index**


- Examines mood, interpersonal interactions and insight

**Participation Index**

- Examines social contacts, initiation, money management, leisure/rec, self-care, residence, transportation and work/school

T-Score Change of at least **4 points** = Minimally Clinically Important Difference (MCID)

T-Score change of at least **8 points** = Robust Clinically Important Difference (RCID)



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**Supervision Rating Scale (SRS)**

The Supervision Rating (SRS) measures the level of supervision that a patient/subject receives from caregivers.

- Uses a 13-point ordinal scale (1 = Independent, 13 = in physical restraints)
- Ordinal scale is grouped into five ranked categories:
  - Independent
  - Overnight Supervision
  - Part-Time Supervision
  - Full-Time Indirect Supervision
  - Full-Time Direct Supervision

Boake, C. (2001). The Supervision Rating Scale. *The Center for Outcome Measurement in Brain Injury*. <http://www.tbims.org/combi/srs>.

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**Results**

**Findings:**

- Linear regression showed that discharge MPAI-4 Total scores were significantly associated with:
  - Mean LoE rating
  - Admission MPAI-4 scores
  - Age at admission
  - Days from injury
- Linear regression showed that discharge MPAI-4 Total scores were not significantly associated with:
  - Standard deviation of LoE rating
  - Sex
  - Condition
  - Length of stay
  - Treatment before or during the COVID pandemic

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**Results**

**Findings:**

- Discharge SRS scores were significantly associated with:
  - Mean LoE rating
  - Admission SRS scores
  - Age.

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**Results**

**Findings:**

- After controlling for other variables, a one-unit increase in mean LoE rating was associated with:
  - An improvement of 5.1 in discharge Total MPAl-4 score
  - An improvement of 1.5 in discharge SRS score

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**Results**

**Findings:**

- Logistic regression showed the odds of achieving a Minimal Clinically Important Difference on the MPAl-4 were 8.34 times higher with each one-unit increase in mean LoE after controlling for other variables.

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**Results**

**Findings:**

- Admission MPAl-4 was negatively associated with:
  - mean LoE ( $\beta = -0.07$ ,  $t = -8.85$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ).
- A limited exploratory propensity score analysis suggests a potential causal effect of mean LoE on outcome.

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**Better Defining the Climb**

- Task Saliency
- Therapeutic Alliance & Rapport
- Person-Centered Rehabilitation

• What skills / competencies do clinicians need to get the most from the people we serve?

- PCR Principles
- EDSO Competencies.

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**What is PCR?**

Thought processes that center on provision of rehabilitation **"with"** the PS and family.

Emphasis is placed on the way rehabilitation is experienced by the person served.

PCR is embedded across

- The person-professional dyad
- The microsystem level (team and family dynamics) (e.g., "we" vs. "they")
- The macrosystem level (organizational structures)

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**Person-Centered Rehabilitation (PCR)**

Conceptual models of person-centered care have proliferated including scoping reviews in the broader healthcare literature.

This is the first scoping review in rehabilitation PCR remains more rhetoric than standard practice

- We all think we do it. But do we? Really?

Research suggests there's a disconnect between clinicians' perceptions of their person-centeredness and the perceptions of their patients.

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**We all think we do it. But do we? Really?**

- Avoids protocolization or prescription
- Gives undivided attention and empathy
- Prioritizes the relationship over all else
- Connects with the PS outside of "required" time
- Requires the professional to be a little bit vulnerable.



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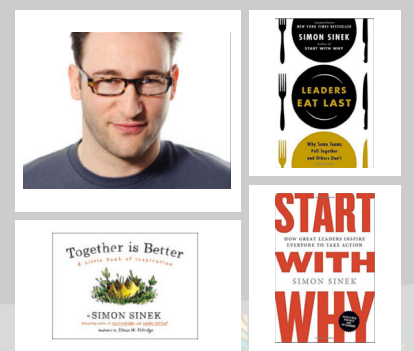
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**The "Life is Good" Neurotransmitters**

Simon Sinek - cultural anthropologist, professional speaker, author, and leadership trainer  
*Start With Why*, *Leaders Eat Last*, *Together is Better*

**EDSO**

- Dopamine** - activated when we exercise
- Dopamine** - activated when we set goals and achieve them
- Serotonin** - activated when we feel pride / incomparably elevated status... it's associated with self confidence.
- Oxytocin** - activated when we experience friendship, kindness, trust, physical touch



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**Mary... a case example**

- 55 y/o
- 1 year post- ABI
  - Ongoing executive function and memory deficits
- Lost job after BI
- Husband with Alcoholism
- Significant weight gain post BI
- Primarily spends time watching TV



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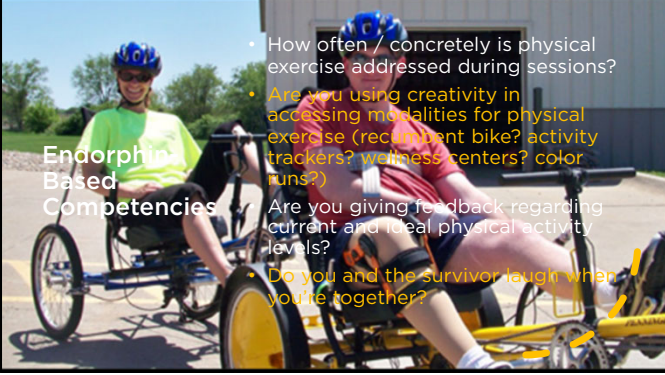
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**Endorphin-Based Competencies**

- How often / concretely is physical exercise addressed during sessions?
- Are you using creativity in accessing modalities for physical exercise (reclining bike? activity trackers? wellness centers? color runs?)
- Are you giving feedback regarding current and ideal physical activity levels?
- Do you and the survivor laugh when you're together?

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**Dopamine-Based Competencies**

- Are we creating VISIBLE goals with the survivor?
- Are we providing constant feedback regarding progress toward those goals?
- Are we constantly relating the task at hand back to the survivor's goals?
- Are we ensuring that the survivor leaves the task feeling as though they have succeeded?
- Are we incorporating music into our interventions when appropriate?

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**Serotonin-Based Competencies?**

- Are we helping the survivor and family understand the importance of celebrating the small steps in the healing process?
- Are we giving public recognition to the survivor?
- Does the interactional style build the survivor up through both word and deed?
- Are we helping the survivor understand that they have something to offer those around them...that their circumstance gives them a perspective that is valuable to others?

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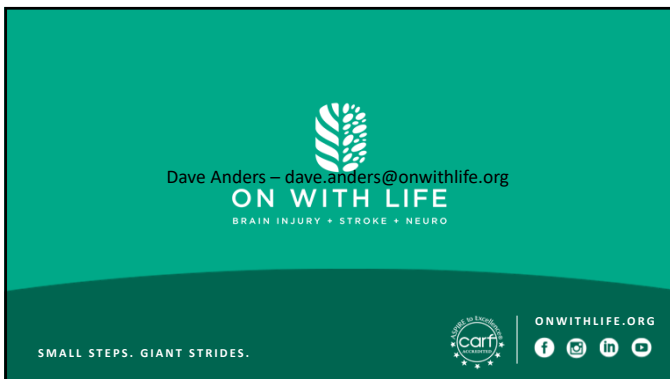
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