

Title: Occupational Therapy Assessment of People with Guillain-Barré Syndrome in Productive Age Focusing on Possibilities of their Employment

Abstract:

Guillain-Barré syndrome is an acute inflammatory neuropathy affecting the peripheral nerves. Its most common symptoms are symmetrical weakness, myalgia, paraesthesia or dysesthesia, areflexia, and temporary quadruplegia. The syndrome starts affecting lower limbs. It progresses in the cranial direction which may lead to ventilation insufficiency and autonomic dysfunctions. It may even affect ability to work of people in productive age. Occupational therapists may specifically target the employment opportunities of people with Guillain-Barré syndrome and support them in returning to work as part of occupational therapy interventions conducted in health and social care institutions or prevocational assessment centers.

This thesis describes the occupational therapy examination in detail with emphasis on the possibilities of employment of three people in productive age with Guillain-Barré syndrome. In order to determine abilities that are required for their return to work, interviews, observations, functional assessments, and selected standardized tests were conducted.

Two versions of reports were produced by these examinations – one for medical staff and the other one as an example of the occupational therapy report of the prevocational assessment for the Labor Office of the Czech Republic. The main difference is that the former focuses on diagnosis and used terminology while the latter focuses on the impact on the employability and avoid the terminology in favour of understandability. The expected advantages (e.g. comparability of the results with the standards, the objectivity of the assessment), and disadvantages (e.g. duration, necessity to adhere to administration guidelines) of using standardized tests were confirmed during the examinations.

Keywords:

occupational therapy, Guillain-Barré syndrome, occupational therapy examination, return to work, vocational rehabilitation