

**Title:** Occupational therapy practice guidelines in children with perinatal brachial plexus palsy

**Abstract:**

Neonatal brachial plexus palsy is a palsy of the upper limb caused by traction of the brachial plexus during birth. It affects about 1.5 cases per 1000 live births and requires complex treatment. The clinical picture depends on the severity of the nerve damage and the part of the plexus that is affected. An unified framework for the treatment and management of paresis improves communication and clinical decision making for further rehabilitation. Currently there is an absence of clinical guidelines on pediatric issues and to ensure the highest quality of care, there is a need to develop them and find the best solutions to the problem. Clinical guidelines improve the quality of healthcare and reduce the variety of procedures and methods in clinical practice.

The aim of this thesis is to develop a scheme for a clinical guidelines for diagnosis and intervention in children with neonatal brachial plexus palsy from birth to 7 years of age. A sub-objective is to review diagnostic tools and occupational therapy methods or procedures that appear in studies dealing with brachial plexus paresis and that can be used in occupational therapy practice.

The thesis presents the issues of perinatal brachial plexus injury in terms of anatomy, clinical presentation, management of paresis, rehabilitation and quality of life. The outcome is a summary of diagnostic tools and options for occupational therapy intervention and a scheme for a clinical guidelines.

**Keywords:** guidelines, occupational therapy, brachial plexus, neonatal brachial plexus palsy, rehabilitation