

**Title:** Availability of Occupational Therapy Care in Patients with Acquired Brain Injury after Discharge from a Rehabilitation Center

**Abstract:**

At present, there is no standardised outpatient care that would be seamlessly linked to complex inpatient care and ensure the availability of specialised neurorehabilitation in all necessary areas (occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech therapy and psychology).

The main aim of the study was to evaluate the availability of occupational therapy care after discharge from a rehabilitation center after acquired brain injury at the Rehabilitation Institute Kladruby within the Cranioprogram and to create a current list of contracted health care providers for outpatient occupational therapy in the Czech Republic for adults.

A questionnaire survey was used in the study, which was conducted on 50 respondents who participated in the Cranioprogram at the Rehabilitation Institute Kladruby. The mean age was 53, 4 (SD ± 15, 1) years and 14 women and 36 men participated. A list of contracted health service providers for ambulatory physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and psychology was requested from individual insurance companies.

The data results show that 32 respondents attend at least 1 outpatient rehabilitation during the first month after the end of inpatient hospitalization, of which 5 respondents attend outpatient occupational therapy. We were unable to demonstrate an association between population size and attendance at outpatient rehabilitation, reduced attendance in older individuals compared with younger individuals, and the absence of occupational therapy intervention largely due to its unavailability. Data analysis showed that 66 facilities provide occupational therapy outpatient care for adults. The greatest availability is provided by insurance companies VZP (n = 57) and the OZP (n = 57).

In the Czech Republic, outpatient occupational therapy care is not evenly provided in the different regions. At the same time, there was uneven representation of rehabilitation specialties (occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech therapy, psychology) by insurance companies. The reasons for the absence of occupational therapy intervention are multifactorial than mainly from the unavailability of its care.

**Key words:** Availability, Outpatient, Occupational Therapy, Stroke, Acquired Brain Injury