

Relevance of cognitive rehabilitation amongst children having chronic illnesses – A theoretical analysis

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Background: Cognitive rehabilitation / retraining has been variously used in the research literature to represent non-pharmacological interventions that target the cognitive impairments with the goal of ameliorating cognitive function and functional behaviors to optimize the quality of life. Along with adult's cognitive impairments, the need to address acquired cognitive impairments (due to any chronic illnesses like CHD - Congenital Heart Diseases or ALL - Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia) among child populations is inevitable. Also, it has to be emphasized as same we consider the cognitive impairments seen in the children having neurodevelopmental disorders.

Methods: All published brain image studies (Hermann, B. et al, 2002, Khalil, A. et al., 2004, Follin, C. et al, 2016 etc) and studies emphasizing cognitive impairments in attention, memory and/or executive function and behavioral aspects (Henkin, Y., et al, 2007, Bellinger, D. C., & Newburger, J. W., (2010), Cheung, Y. T., et al, 2016, that could be identified were reviewed. Based on a systematic review of the literature from (2000 -2021) different brain imaging studies, increased risk of neuropsychological and psychosocial impairments are briefly described. Clinical and research gap in the area is discussed.

Results: 30 papers, both Indian studies and foreign publications (Sage journals, Delhi psychiatry journal, Wiley Online Library, APA PsyNet, Springer, Elsevier, Developmental medicine and child neurology), were identified.

Conclusions: In India, a very limited number of brain imaging studies and neuropsychological studies have done by indicating the cognitive deficits of a child having or undergone chronic illness. None of the studies have emphasized the relevance nor the need of implementing CR among such children, even though it's high time to address but still not established yet.

The review of the current evidence is to bring out an insight among rehabilitation professionals in establishing a child specific CR and to publish new findings regarding the implementation of CR among such children. Also, this study will be awareness on considering cognitive aspects of a child having acquired cognitive deficit (due chronic illness) especially during their critical developmental period.

Key Words: Cognitive Rehabilitation, Neuropsychological Impairments, Congenital Heart Diseases, Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, Epilepsy and Neuroplasticity.

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Biography

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