Lesão Cerebral na população pediátrica. Que inclusão social?

*Traumatic brain injury in pediatric population - Which social inclusion?*

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**Introduction**

Traumatic brain injuries (TBI) are a very important cause of children morbidity and disability, with a negative impact on their life quality. Outcomes vary with the severity of injury, child age at injury, premorbid child characteristics, family factors and the families' socioeconomic status.

**Aim**

To evaluate the social inclusion of children following a traumatic brain injury after hospital discharge.

**Patients and Methods**

The authors made a retrospective study of the inpatients of a specific unit of the Pediatric Development and Rehabilitation Service, dedicated to the care of children that, at admission, were in coma or in a minimal responsive state. Medical records were reviewed corresponding to children admitted to this unit between 1996 and 2007 and their social inclusion was evaluated.

**Conclusion**

Children following traumatic brain injuries face serious difficulties when they return to their familiar environment in terms of skills, behaviour, communication and education. They could also be a physical, emotional and financial burden to their families and society. Prevention measures and oriented rehabilitation programs are essential to assure a better outcome for children with TBI.

Referências / References: