

Neuropsychological Rehabilitation for People with Very Severe Brain Injury

Abstract:

This presentation is aimed at neuropsychologists working with people who have sustained very severe brain injury and who are too impaired to be assessed on traditional neuropsychological tests. In the presentation, Professor Barbara Wilson will start with those patients who have a disorder of consciousness and discuss assessment, management, and setting appropriate goals for this group. She will then continue with those patients who are conscious but still cannot be assessed with the typical neuropsychological tests. She will consider assessment and observation procedures that can be used with such patients, such as determining if the person has sensory impairments, tests for children, tests for people with semantic impairments, determining if the person can recognise colours understand real versus nonsense words etc. Professor Wilson will also discuss rehabilitation strategies including setting goals, reducing problematic behaviours, recognising important objects or people, alternative communication systems, and so forth. Examples from actual patients and video clips will be used to illustrate the presentation.