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Presentation Title: Music interventions for acquired brain injury: Evidence for music therapy within interdisciplinary contexts

Abstract:

This presentation will draw from the recent Cochrane review "Music interventions for Acquired Brain Injury" that included research from music therapy as well as other healthcare professions. We conducted extensive searches for randomized and clinical controlled trials with adults with non-degenerative acquired brain injury comparing music interventions and standard care versus standard care alone or standard care combined with other therapies. We were able to include 29 trials in a qualitative synthesis, and to include 21 trials in our meta-analysis. The main findings indicate that rhythm-based methods remain important music interventions for movement disorders in ABI, specifically for gait rehabilitation. We conducted sub-analyses for interventionist and types of music interventions, finding that intervention for gait may be enhanced when a trained music therapist delivers the intervention and the rhythmic auditory stimulus is embedded in music. Music interventions may be beneficial after stroke for improving the timing of upper extremity function and for overall communication, naming and speech repetition. There may be an improvement in quality of life following stroke using rhythmic auditory stimulation. More research is needed on the effects of music on memory, attention, executive functions, neglect, orientation, communication and mood. Research on music interventions for communication should target speech outcomes. Measures used for mood outcomes require greater uniformity to enable meta-analysis. The implications for evidence-based care in rehabilitation will be discussed.