

ABSTRACT

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Title: Barriers of Public Environment from the Perspective of People with Acquired Brain Injury during Shopping

Introduction: Removing barriers of the environment is one of the goals of *The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. In foreign studies, occupational therapists are also focused on the effects of barriers on the performance of people with disabilities, which limit them due to sensory disorders or their phatic and cognitive functions.

Aim: Find out the barriers of public environment, that complicate shopping of people with acquired brain injury (ABI).

Methods: A questionnaire with 34 questions was made and distributed in electronic version and also in version for printing by emails to facilities for adult people with ABI. Therapists and family members were allowed to help them with filling the questionnaire, so people with malfunction of phatic functions and cognitive skills were not limited. Also involved observation during shopping was made with 5 people with ABI.

Results: The questionnaire was filled by 26 people with ABI on average in 12 minutes. 20 of them were after stroke. Most of them were at least 1 year after ABI and felt their disability as medium-difficult. 23 respondents were already shopping after ABI. Most of them needs physical help from other person or compensation aid for movement. They have for example problems with manipulation with articles, plastic bags or coins due to exacerbated function of upper limb, with buying and trying on clothes, finding good on shelves due to malfunction of cognitive skills or they have problems with communication due to dysarthria, aphasia or too fast speech of salespeople. During involved observation was found out, that narrow and badly approachable lift, barriers on path, narrow space between shelves and missing classic shopping handbasket were main barriers.

Conclusion: Occupational therapists must work holistically during the therapy with people after ABI focused on shopping, one of the main items of instrumental activities of daily living.

Key words: people with acquired brain injury, barriers, shopping, occupational therapy