

ABSTRACT

Title:

Effects of Hippotherapy on Control Functions of the Central Nervous System in Patients with Parkinson's Disease

Objective: To draw up a Programme for hippotherapy in patients with Parkinson's Disease on the basis of literature, theory and practical application.

Method: The Programme was tested for nine months on ten senior patients with Parkinson's Disease with dominant bradykinesia and muscle rigidity. The testing of individual patients was carried out by means of the FIM test (Functional Independence Measure).

Results: The results show the application of the Programme and the way it can be used in the complicated fight with the Parkinson's Disease. The hippotherapy has a positive effect on senior PD patients with dominant bradykinesia and muscle rigidity, improving the functional independence in daily routine activities. The positive influence of this method can be seen both in locomotive skills and psychic functions.

Key words: Parkinson's Disease, hippotherapy, CNS control functions, Functional Independence Measure Index.