

## **Abstract**

Acquired brain injury (ABI) of various etiology is one of the major causes of health impairment, disability and death in adult population. It has a wide scale of physical, psychological and social consequences impacting the lives of patients and their relatives. Neuropsychological rehabilitation (individual and group) has become an integrated part of the complex rehabilitation of ABI supported by evidence-based research and practice. Theory and research suggest new perspective on psychotherapy and its role in this process, though its use in the Czech republic may be limited. The goal of the theoretical part of this thesis was to explore the status of the knowledge and practice of neuropsychological rehabilitation of ABI with focus on group work and psychotherapy and their effectiveness. The empirical part aimed to analyze effectiveness of short-term group dynamic psychotherapy in sample of patients with ABI. The intervention was applied in a realistic setting of two selected rehabilitation centers. The patients completed European Brain Injury Questionnaire for Patients (EBIQ-P) and Zung's Self-rating Depression Scale pre-, after 6 weeks and post-intervention covering researched symptoms. The results suggest that there was a significant change in perception of various categories of problems including physical, somatic and cognitive symptoms, communication, isolation, impulsivity and depression in experimental group. The change was statistically significant for most of the problems when compared to a control group undergoing treatment as usual. The majority of patients from the experimental group would also recommend this type of psychotherapy to other patients with ABI. The results also show possibility of feasibility of the intervention in the rehabilitation centers. The limits of the research (non-randomized research design, smaller sample) suggest that the results cannot be used for causal inference and be generalized; further research will be required.

### **Keywords:**

acquired brain injury, neuropsychological rehabilitation, dynamic psychotherapy, effectiveness, group work