

Abstract

The thesis deals with hippotherapy and its impact on the musculoskeletal system with a particular focus on monitoring arches of the foot. The goal of the thesis was to evaluate the effect of the hippotherapeutic method - as defined by MA. Kateřina Čapková - on the foot in case of verticalized child patients. Additionally, I aimed to find out if the PhysioSensing platform is relevant to measure children with special needs. The work is divided into a theoretical and an empirical part. In the theoretical one, I analyze the method of hippotherapy for patients with cerebral palsy and pathologies of the foot, as well as concepts of their physiotherapeutic care. The empirical part assesses the results from the measuring of probands at the beginning and at the end of a one-week-lasting hippotherapeutic treatment organized by the Center of hipporehabilitation Mirákl. The research shows that the PhysioSensing platform, as a tool for objectivization of the foot of patients with physical or cognitive/mental handicaps may be valid only under very special conditions. Although it was not possible to prove the direct correlation between hippotherapy and foot-changes based on the pilot data, I suggest a precise method of measuring which might be applied in further research of the foot treatment by hippotherapy and beyond. This method is the key and original contribution of this thesis.