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Spinal Cord Injury: The nature of the beast

Traumatic Spinal Cord Injuries (TSCI) are life-changing events from medical, physical, psychological, social, financial, vocational, environmental & matrimonial effects. The combination of consequent generalised physiological impairment, multi-system malfunction, multiple disabilities, wide range of potential complications, sensory impairment together with the non-medical effects impose challenges to patients, carers and clinicians. With expert simultaneous management of the SCI together with all its effects the impact can be minimised. A significant majority of patients with incomplete paralysis recover motor power to ambulate. Patients who do not recover ambulation can, with ongoing expert monitoring, care and support lead healthy, fulfilling, productive lives and contribute to their community and the society in general. Successful management of patients with Spinal Cord Injuries requires an understanding of the pathophysiological changes that occur in the various systems of the body of the patient and infrastructure of a well-trained, well-coordinated and experienced multidisciplinary team in an environment that not only facilitates complex management but also preserves the dignity of the individual patient. The challenges that the patient, clinician and family members encounter will be discussed.

Biography

Wagih El Masri is currently Hon. Clinical Professor of Spinal Injuries (SI), Keele University has trained between 1971 & 1983 in the Oxford Group of Hospitals, Guys & Stoke Mandeville Hospitals and the USA. Obtained the first accreditation in Spinal Injuries and General Surgery in 1982. Appointed as a Consultant Surgeon in Spinal Injuries at the Midland Centre for Spinal Injuries in 1983. He treated and provided ongoing total care at all stages following injury to about 10,000 patients with SI. He published over 140 manuscripts. He is the author of the concepts of "Physiological Instability of the Spinal Cord", "Time related Biomechanical Instability", "Hypothesis of Micro-instability of the Injured Spine" and the largest series of Bladder Cancer in SCI patients. He is Past President of International Spinal Cord Society and Past Chairman of British Association of Spinal Cord Injury Specialists. He won many National and International awards. He is Founder Member and Trustee of SPIRIT a charity for education and training of Doctors & Health Care Professionals in the Principles and Practice of Management of Spinal Cord Injured Basis. He is Founder Member and Trustee of TransHouse now (Ethos) a charity that offers Transitional Housing from the hospital to the community and a Trustee of the Institute of Orthopaedic of the RJAH Hospital.

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