

How Does Delirium Affect Allied Health Therapy After Stroke?

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This study proposed to evaluate the effect of delirium on patient participation in allied health therapy, and determine whether time or length of session improved engagement.

- 40 patients recruited for 355 therapy sessions
- Patients had less therapy when in delirium ($p < .001$)
 - Delirium +ve sessions: 14.5 mins therapy in 29.0 min session (47.3%)
 - Delirium –ve sessions: 29.3 mins therapy in 42.2 min session (72.0%)
- For delirium +ve sessions, therapists scored participation lower, and both inattention and altered conscious state affected sessions more

Key Messages:

- This is the first study to measure the participation and engagement of patients in post-stroke delirium in rehabilitative therapy
- Time of day and duration of session did not alter efficiency of therapy or participation
- Conscious state may be the best predictor of a patients ability to engage in therapy

