Project Profile presented by

The Hopkins Centre

Research for Rehabilitation and Resilience

THE HYPERTONICITY HUB: IMPROVING MUSCLE TONE IN BRAIN INJURY

Project aims

This study will help people with brain injury and hypertonicity (spasticity), particularly those who live outside Brisbane (and their treating rehabilitation clinicians), by determining the best ways that the Brisbane-based specialist team at Princess Alexandra Hospital can work with the local clinicians to better manage hypertonicity.

Up to 42% of people experience hypertonicity (muscle over-activity) after brain injury. Consequences include joint contractures, pressure areas, pain, muscle weakness and tightness leading to disability, reduced quality of life and increased health care costs. Evidence suggests Botulinum toxin injections and therapy can successfully counteract these problems. Ideally patients should receive management in their local area to maximise access, support and continuity of care. Unfortunately, patients from regional areas face significant access barriers.

The Princess Alexandra Hospital Hypertonicity Service (PAHTS) currently provides the only specialist service for people with acquired brain injury in Queensland and the multidisciplinary team is a recognised leader in the field.

Project investigators

Ms Catherine Cave, Ms Micky Nascimento, Ms Marie Kayssar, Ms Janelle Griffin, Ms Janelle Gesch, Dr Rachael Nunan – Metro South Health; Dr Letitia Burridge – The Hopkins Centre.

Funders

Motor Accident Insurance Commission (MAIC) and Metro South Health.

Contact

Ms Catherine Cave, Senior Physiotherapist / Research Officer, Metro South Health

Email: catherine.cave@health.qld.gov.au

* This is just one of a suite of projects focused on the management of physical health for people with disabilities. If this area interests you, please contact us.

A joint initiative of Griffith University Queensland, Australia | Menzies Health Institute Queensland | Metro South Health | Queensland Government