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Canadian Association of Neuroscience Nurses
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Kerry's story: The challenges of facing a recurrent craniopharyngioma

By Jodi Dusik-Sharpe

Craniopharyngiomas account for approximately nine per cent of pediatric brain tumours and one to two per cent of adult brain tumours. Though considered benign, the compressive nature of these relentless tumours can produce catastrophic sequelae. This case study pays tribute to a 33-year-old woman who faced numerous surgeries, adjuvant therapy, and many of the complications associated with a craniopharyngioma. The interdisciplinary neuroscience team, along with colleagues from neuroradiology, ophthalmology, and endocrinology, joined together to care for Kerry and her family to meet their complex health and psychosocial needs. However, it was Kerry who taught us about perseverance, strength, and the power of an unconquerable human spirit.

Neurodevelopmental treatment and stroke rehabilitation: A critique and extension for neuroscience nursing practice

By Cydnee Seneviratne and Marlene Reimer

The aim of this article is to review neurodevelopmental treatment (NDT) literature and existing stroke NDT nursing research, as well as explore issues related to professional collaboration in stroke rehabilitation and implications for neuroscience nursing practice. NDT or the Bobath approach is used to encourage stroke patients to use the affected side of their body in order to promote and relearn normal movement and to reduce muscle spasticity. Neuroscience nurses have an important role in facilitating stroke patients to practise transferring out of bed and performing activities of daily living outside of physiotherapy and occupational therapy sessions. Neuroscience nurses also care for stroke patients over a 24-hour period. Therefore, it is important that nurses understand physiotherapy and occupational therapy strategies in stroke rehabilitation.