

Abstract

Since the first report on the management of traumatic brain injury by the then Medical Disability Society, there has been increasing recognition of the effectiveness of brain injury rehabilitation. Conceptual differences between spontaneous recovery and the response to rehabilitation have been more clearly articulated. The current view is that spontaneous recovery is responsible for many of the improvements in impairment, but for only a modest proportion of associated improvements in disability and social outcome. Rehabilitation also addresses objectives such as understanding, readjustment and the acquisition of new physical, cognitive and social skills that are tangential to the plane of spontaneous recovery and call for different methods of assessment. In view of these developments, the BSRM Executive felt that it was time to update the previous report and set up a working party accordingly.

The terms of reference of the working party were to produce a brief report indicating the scale of the problems posed by traumatic brain injury and the range of resources required to manage brain injury effectively. It was intended to formulate the report in such a way as to define acceptable standards of practice as a guideline to those responsible for the planning, purchasing, implementation and monitoring of the rehabilitation of those who have had a significant brain injury. It is hoped that the report will also be helpful to voluntary organisations and the general public.

End of Abstract
