Rehabilitation Psychology. A missing link in current Danish practices
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OBJECTIVES & METHODS

RESULTS 1: Quantitative study: Functional Independence Measure (FIM)-total scores in patients with acquired brain injury before and after rehabilitation (KORE) programme compared to the Danish standard (SDS) and to controls (C) as well as information on return to work and qualitative interviews with clients (N = 82) and their relatives (N = 40).

RESULTS 2: Qualitative study: Focus on identity construction, depression, and quality of life of adults following an acquired brain injury.

RESULTS, DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

RESULTS: Results found no support for the KORE programmes influence on bio-psychosocial outcomes. The clients level of difficulties as measured on RPM, MDI, QOL and IQP, and their return to work rate, were at the same level in the group who received the KORE programme as in the group who underwent standard rehabilitation before the KORE programme was implemented. With regard to psychosocial outcomes, one third of all clients showed signs of depression and more than half (50-65%) of all clients experienced dissatisfaction with QOL. Furthermore, 50% of all clients reported problems in their family relations. Qualitative interviews suggested several barriers to improvement, such as unmet needs for psychological support, as rehabilitation services focused on physical and practical training.

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION: Coordinated interventions do not guarantee comprehensive rehabilitation and better outcomes for clients with acquired brain injury. Psychological support may be the missing link. Rehabilitation psychology is a growing field in European practice that involves applying psychological knowledge to address psychosocial consequences related to individuals with disabilities. Therefore, based on this research, we have developed a new master programme, Clinics for Handicap and Rehabilitation Psychology (CHaRa), at the Department of Communication and Psychology at Aalborg University. CHaRa aims at qualifying students for future work as rehabilitation psychologists. The programme spans 4 semesters and is organized partly in relation to curriculum, partly in relation to clinical practice where students will offer a manual based intervention to clients with disabilities (acquired brain injuries) and their close relatives.

REFERENCES
