

Competition improves attention and motivation after stroke

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ABSTRACT

Cognitive deficits are a common sequelae after stroke. Among them, attention impairments have the highest incidence and limit functional recovery and quality of life. Different strategies to improve attention have been presented through the years, even though its effectiveness is still unclear. Basing on the human competitive nature, competitive strategies have been proposed to increase motivation and intensity. However, this approach has been never applied to train attention after stroke. In this paper, we present a randomized controlled trial that evidences the important role of competition in cognitive functioning. Our results support that competitive strategies combining virtual reality-based and paper and pencil tasks can improve attention and motivation after stroke to a greater extent than non-competitive paper and pencil tasks.

Full papers will be published in the Conference Proceedings and will be freely available to delegates at the conference and online on September 20, 2016.