Briefly Noted

Splinting the Burn Patient
Carol Walters (1987).
Available from The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc., PO Box 1725, Rockville, MD 20849-1725.
97 pp., $20 (member), $25 (nonmember).

Concern for the burn patient's well-being in treatment takes precedence in this carefully written manual. Although the text focuses on burn patients, the techniques presented can be used with patients with other conditions as well. The beginning chapters present a brief review of splinting materials, general techniques for splinting, and instructions on the making of patterns. Subsequent chapters focus on individual body parts, starting from the face and moving down to the foot. The face conformer, neck conformer with microstomia attachment, airplane splint, and sandwich hand splint are a few of the splints covered.

The book's spiral binding allows for easy viewing during clinical use. Step-by-step instructions and numerous photographs guide the reader through the splinting process. Wearing schedules, precautionary measures, and rationales are also included.

One of the most notable aspects of this text is the author's 12 years of experience in splinting. The information given has been time-tested, which virtually ensures successful application. For example, the author suggests that the patient be in the pronated functional position when being fitted for a volar hand splint. This procedure results in a more accurate splint. Typically, volar hand splints are molded with the palm up to allow gravity to assist fabrication.

Students as well as therapists in the clinical setting will find Splinting the Burn Patient of great value.

Susan M. Liebher, OTR

Handle With Care: Articles About the At-Risk Neonate
Therapy Skill Builders, 3830 East Bellevue, PO Box 42050, Tucson, AZ 85733.
80 pp., $19.95.

This softcover book of handouts addresses the parents of children in the neonatal intensive care unit. The authors state that the information is intended to enhance meetings between parents and professionals over 15 to 25 sessions. It is suggested that a designated professional coordinate and monitor the information given to a family. The group that this book targets should have a sixth-grade reading ability. The handouts are to be disseminated by neonatologists, consulting physicians, rehabilitation specialists, and nurses.

Each handout is 1 to 2 pages and is written in a predominantly narrative style. A few pages include diagrams or charts for easier reading. Notably omitted are positioning pictures for the facilitation of normal development and feeding skills.

The book includes basic information on premature infants and provides glossaries of medical terms and metric conversions for temperature and height. Additionally, many of the topics involve the use of the most updated information available, such as the neonate's communication through the use of the physiologic, motor, and state systems. The range of information is thorough, from the visiting policies of the neonatal intensive care unit to preparation for the infant's discharge from the unit. Although the general policies presented allow room for individualized programming, the sections on positioning, feeding, and signs of stress do not include space in which professionals can write individualized instructions. References and resource organizations are located at the back of the book. Readers should make sure that they receive a page of reference corrections with their copy of this edition.

These handouts are timesaving and provide fresh ideas for personnel on the neonatal intensive care unit. Professionals working with uninformed parents who infrequently visit the unit would need to simplify and expand some handouts with illustrations. Parent groups would also be needed to reinforce the actual handling and repetition of critical information for the home. I hope that the authors will include more pictorial representations when updating the book in the next year or two, because information on the treatment of neonates changes rapidly.

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