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QOL-20. A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE ON THE REHABILITATION OF PATIENTS WITH POSTERIOR FOSSA SYNDROME

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BACKGROUND: Posterior fossa syndrome (also recently described as pediatric postoperative cerebellar mutism syndrome) is a well described phenomenon, in which a patient develops a spectrum of speech and motor/coordination deficits generally in the acute stage after posterior fossa tumor resection. While most patients recover well, some patients evidence significant deficits years after diagnosis, and there is some evidence that minor long-term deficits may remain. While its frequency of occurrence is relatively low, and efforts have been made to identify strategies to decrease the rate of Posterior Fossa Syndrome, the fundamental interventions for functional optimization and rehabilitation of patients are still being discussed and researched. METHODS: Along with reviewing the most up-to-date literature on the rehabilitation management of patients with posterior fossa syndrome, we will discuss current a survey based study designed by a group of representatives from the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R) Pediatric Cancer Rehabilitation subcommittee, to better understand the standards of how the syndrome is managed by physiatrists in the US. This survey distributed via email, posting on an AAPM&R online community, as well as social media sites. RESULTS: While literature is limited, there is evidence for the practice of therapy services, bracing, and in admission for acute inpatient rehabilitation to guide treatment for patients with posterior fossa syndrome. Results from the above survey study will be discussed, which preliminarily shows a consistent reliance on therapy services and a broader heterogeneity to frequency and treatment preferences among physicians in the US. CONCLUSION: Posterior Fossa Syndrome can be a challenging and debilitating disorder for pediatric brain tumor patients. Further research into treatment options and outcomes is necessary to guide future management.