Honorary Authorship: Frequency and Associated Factors in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Research Articles

The inclusion of an author on an article whose contributions do not actually constitute authorship is unethical. So-called honorary authorship could lead to unfair academic promotion, research funding without merit, and other potential consequences. Rajasekaran and colleagues conducted a survey of first authors to ascertain the prevalence of both perceived honorary authorship and International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)-defined honorary authorship in physical medicine and rehabilitation literature. The authors found that honorary authorship does indeed occur in a significant proportion of the literature; prevalences of perceived and ICMJE-defined honorary authorship were 18.0% and 55.2% respectively. The authors hope that these findings will increase awareness within the specialty about honorary authorship and about the ICMJE authorship criteria. ■ SEE THE FULL ARTICLE AT PAGE 418

An accompanying commentary by Jeffrey Basford, Walter Frontera, and Bengt Sjölund reviews these findings, discusses the significance of unwarranted authorship, and offers suggestions for authors, editors, and publishers. ■ SEE THE COMMENTARY AT PAGE 429

Combination Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation and Virtual Reality Therapy for Upper Extremity Training in Patients With Subacute Stroke

In this pilot study, Lee and Chun investigated the effects of combining cathodal transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) and virtual reality (VR) therapy for upper extremity (UE) training in patients with subacute stroke. Patients (N=59) were randomly assigned to 1 of 3 groups: group A received cathodal tDCS, group B received VR therapy, and group C received combination therapy in which cathodal tDCS was simultaneously applied during VR therapy. After 15 treatment sessions over a 3-week period, analysis revealed that the improvement in Manual Function Test and Fugl-Meyer Scale scores in group C was significantly higher than in the other 2 groups. The authors conclude that the combination of brain stimulation using tDCS and peripheral arm training using VR could be more effective for UE training than using each intervention alone. ■ SEE THE FULL ARTICLE AT PAGE 431

Effects of Intensive Whole-Body Vibration Training on Muscle Strength and Balance in Adults With Chronic Stroke: A Randomized Controlled Pilot Study

Tankisheva and colleagues investigated the effects of a 6-week whole-body vibration (WBV) training program in patients with chronic stroke. Fifteen adults were randomly assigned to a vibration group or a control group. The vibration group performed a variety of squat exercises on a vibration platform 3 times weekly. Overall, the effect of intensive WBV intervention resulted in significant between-group differences in favor of the vibration group only in isometric knee extension strength after the 6 weeks of intervention and in isokinetic knee extension strength after a 6-week follow-up period, both for the paretic leg. Postural control improved in the vibration group when patients had normal vision and a sway-referenced support surface. These results suggest that intensive WBV may be a promising way to increase lower limb muscle strength and postural control in adults with chronic stroke, but further study is needed. ■ SEE THE FULL ARTICLE AT PAGE 439

Symptoms of Depression Over Time in Adults With Pediatric-Onset Spinal Cord Injury

In this longitudinal cohort survey, January and colleagues investigated the prevalence of depressive symptoms in adults with pediatric-onset spinal cord injury (SCI) and explored potential risk factors associated with elevated symptoms. Participants (N=214) who sustained an SCI prior to age 19 completed measures assessing psychosocial functioning, physical independence, participation, and depression in up to 8 waves of data. Depression symptoms were typically minimal at initial status but fluctuated significantly over time. Incomplete injury, secondary health complications, and individual participant characteristics appeared to be significant predictors of depressive symptoms in the final model. The authors suggest that strategies should be considered to minimize secondary health complications and foster community participation in this population. ■ SEE THE FULL ARTICLE AT PAGE 447