

Despite the prevention campaigns launched for reducing traffic accidents and improving heartfriendly habits, traumatic brain injury and ictus are very frequent and increasingly affect

younger people. Both pathologies cause changes in behavior, mainly in the cognitive (atterment)

memory planning etc) emotional (irritability lack of motivation, etc) and behavioral

memory, planning, etc), emotional (irritability, lack of motivation, etc) and behavioral (impulsiveness, aggressiveness, etc.). Most patients suffer permanent after-effects that be full recovery. This limits their independence to carry out work, academic and social activity.

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Neurons Key To Healing Of Brain Injuries Identified

1 de 3 21/03/2011 10:26

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This study was carried out by Alfonso Caracuel Romero, of the Department of Personality and Psychological Evaluation and Treatment, and conducted by professors Miguel Pérez García y Antonio Verdejo García. This research proved that the longer the treatment is delayed, the more serious emotional alterations —directly caused by the traumatism or as a result of the changes in the patient's life—will be.

To carry out this study, researchers took an initial sample of 7 patients with acquired brain injury and their families, and were compared with a control group of patients that did not receive any neuropsychological treatment. Then, 18 patients and their families were treated with a neuropsychological treatment. As a result of the intervention, patients improved their general cognitive performance (attention, memory, etc) and their emotional state (lower depression levels), activity level (reduction of apathy) and their ability to regulate their social behavior. However, within this group, those receiving early neuropsychological assistance improved more significantly their emotional and cognitive abilities in the long term than the patients that received neuropsychological treatment when more than six months have passed since the trauma.

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2 de 3 21/03/2011 10:26