

Dr. Juan Carlos Arango Lasprilla Talks About Cultural Differences In Treatment of TBI

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I think it's very important especially when you work with people with brain injury that are from different cultures one of the more important things is to work with the family and also talk with all the family members and provide them information about their recovery about the prognosis of the disease and also yeah ask questions to them ask them what do they think about the treatment do they have suggestions, yeah we talk with the family, I think it's very important.

Yeah it's important in some cultures we don't use the informed consent you know the informed consent form. Usually when you go to the doctor in other country you don't expect that you have to sign a consent form. In some cases here in this country when people from Hispanic background people in Asia, go to the doctor and they see that you have to sign a informed consent form they start thinking that there is something weird here. There is something wrong why I have to sign and give authorization to my doctor to provide service to me and this is one example. Other example is that some people from different cultures think that, that things that happen during their health problems it relates to God and when they have a TBI or spinal cord injury or other kind of disease they think that probably is God the person that caused this send the problem to him and they don't want to do anything to change the situation, they hope that God will help them to recovery and they don't feel they need to go to the rehabilitation professionals to receive services.

Yeah possible I can tell you that we have patients sometimes, Hispanic patients that they when the doctors prescribe the medication that they have to take, they don't want to take the medication they first talk with their family members especially with their mom or grandma and ask them for advice and is this medication is good for them or if there's something that they should take instead of the medication that the doctor recommends and sometimes yeah they think that this God the person that is the only person that can provide service to them and you have to work with them and show them that yeah God wants him or her to recover and God is working with the rehabilitation professional to provide service to them to improve their lives.

I think one of the best advice that I can give to the families is that they should be persistent, they should try very hard to find professionals into the community that will be able to provide services for their family member. There are a lot of professionals in the community that speak different language that will be willing to provide the same service that they provide for people in this country. You know people from other countries that speak their language that speak English.