

Dr. Juan Carlos Arango Lasprilla Talks About Disparity Of Care For Minorities

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There are a lot of health care disparities unfortunately in this country especially minorities are more are less likely to receive rehabilitation services such as occupational therapy, psychotherapy, speech pathology or physical therapy. Also some studies have found that minorities are more likely to be unemployed 1 to 4 years post injury. Minorities are more likely to not receive rehabilitation services after their injury. They are more likely to have more disability 1 to 2 years post injury, therefore, less likely to be integrated in communities.

One of the interesting things that you can note is when you do a study looking at health care disparities in this country especially with people with TBI you can see that even after controlling for socio demographic and injury characteristics you can see that health care disparities exist. Minorities are the worse in pretty much in all of the areas. Rehabilitation, employment, community integration, functional outcomes, they do worse even after controlling for socio demographic characteristics. I think that there are a lot of factors that could explain these problems. One of the factors could be cultural issues. Usually some minorities they don't trust in doctors and they don't want to go and receive rehabilitation services. There are also different belief about theories about rehabilitations. There are transportation problems, income problems, but there are other factors that could influence this outcome like mistrust, racism and also language barriers. There are a lot Hispanics people or from Asia that they don't speak English and when they have to receive rehabilitation services usually they are no professionals that can provide the service to this patient in their own language.