

DR. JUAN CARLOS ARANGO LASPRILLA TALKS ABOUT HIS BROTHERS TBI STORY

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Dr. Juan Carlos Arango-Lasprilla Talks About his Brothers TBI Story

13 years ago my brother had a traumatic brain injury in Colombia, South America and he stayed in the hospital for almost 4 months. It was a very sad experience for all of the members of my family especially because in South America there are not too many rehabilitation centers for people with brain injury and usually after the patient is discharged from the hospital the, the family has to start providing service for the patient because over there we don't have a lot rehabilitation centers. We don't have cognitive rehabilitation therapies. Over there when you have a brain injury or spinal cord injury the amount of rehabilitation service that you will receive is very minimal compared to the United States.

We started doing experimental things, trying to make him to walk, doing some exercise with him, doing some cognitive rehabilitation exercise. We didn't do anything about know anything about cognitive rehabilitation at that time which I was doing my bachelor in psychology and I didn't do I didn't know too much about cognitive rehabilitation. But I started practicing, doing some attention, memory exercise and working with him every day at home.

He went back to the University, he finished his bachelor degree and he is working right now. He's like 25 year old, happened 10 years ago. I think if he would have been in America probably he would have more opportunities to receive inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services in this country and he probably will receive occupational therapy services, speech language services, and also probably cognitive rehabilitation. Because when my brother had the injury he had a lot of memory, and attention problems.

In some hospital in South America or in Colombia they tried to use the same instruments and the same tests that people use here in America and sometimes they just lay these instruments and provide these instruments and provide this evaluation using the instruments that we usually use here in America and some of these instruments most of the time are not culturally relevant and probability to made mixed diagnosis is very big.