A MODEL FOR A SPASTICITY MANAGEMENT OUTREACH CLINIC FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES LIVING IN JAMAICA

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Abstract (Limited to 300 Words):

PURPOSE: Children with disabilities in Jamaica have limited access to spasticity management interventions. Therefore, healthcare professionals from the US and Jamaica have collaborated to improve education regarding spasticity management and to develop an outreach clinic to provide spasticity management interventions to children with disabilities in Jamaica.

DESCRIPTION: The structure of the spasticity management outreach clinic is described, including interventions and education provided by a multi-disciplinary healthcare team. Physical therapists play a role in providing education to providers, patients and caregivers. They offered recommendations for stretching and positioning. The physical therapists also made and fit adaptive equipment, as well as braces when appropriate.

OBSERVATION: A growing number of providers have participated in this outreach clinic, allowing greater access to a broader scope of services. This clinic has been well received by local patients and families. A case review of a boy who benefitted from a dorsal rhizotomy is presented.

CONCLUSIONS: There is a demand for spasticity management interventions in Jamaica, including services provided by physical therapists. Relationships between Jamaican and US healthcare providers should continue to be developed and sustained to best serve the children with disabilities in Jamaica.

IMPLICATION: The role of a physical therapist in this model of a spasticity management outreach clinic may be useful to meet the needs of other underserved populations.