Driving As a Valued Occupation: Returning to Driving After Brain Injury

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The Importance of Driving

- Independence
- Employment
- Community Integration
- Leisure
- Self-efficacy
- Social interaction
- Symbolic

(Brenner, Homaifar, & Schultheis, 2008)
Impact of the Loss of Driving

- One of the most functionally disabling results of TBI
  (Benoit, 2011)
- Difficulty maintaining employment
- Depression
- Isolation
- Limits return to independent living

(Brenner, Homaifar, & Schultheis, 2008)
Skills Needed for Driving: It’s Complicated

<table>
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<th>Visual Skills</th>
<th>Cognitive Skills</th>
<th>Motor Skills</th>
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<td>Visual Acuity</td>
<td>Visual Perceptual Skills</td>
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<td>Recognition of colors</td>
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<td>Glare Recovery</td>
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<td>Divided visual attention</td>
<td>Attention</td>
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<td>Visual Neglect</td>
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All of these can be impacted by a brain injury. All of these are necessary for safe driving.  
(Benoit, 2011)
sometimes I just want to drive away but I don't have driver's license ...or a car
Driving Rehab Process

1. Discuss your goals with your doctor.
   - Including your eye doctor.
2. Obtain a valid driver’s permit.
   - Your Occupational Therapist or Certified Driving Rehabilitation Specialist can help with this!
3. Consider your funding source
   - Vocational Rehab, Workers Comp, Private Insurance, Private Pay
4. Seek out a Certified Driving Rehabilitation Specialist (CDRS)
Completing a Driving Evaluation

- **Off Road Evaluation**
  - Typically completed in the office prior to the driving portion
  - Includes visual, cognitive, and motor assessments

- **On Road Evaluation**
  - Will complete driving in a car provided by the CDRS
  - Will complete a pre-determined course in a variety of environments
  - Car adaptations may be available as needed.
What Happens Next?

- Pass - Unrestricted License
- Pass - Restricted License
- Further Training
- No Pass
What about Physical Limitations?

- Hemiparesis/Hemiplegia
- Spasticity/Tone
- Decreased AROM
- Unable to ambulate without a device
Available Compensatory Equipment

Can be simple or more complex
- Hand controls
- Mirrors
- Modified Seating
- Hi-Tech
Hand Controls

Images from M.C. Mobility
Modified Pedals For Use With Hand Controls

Images 1 and 2 from M.C. Mobility Systems
Image 3 from Sure Grip-HVL
Mirrors

Images from Amazon
Adapted Seating

Images from Mobility Works and Adapt Solutions
Options for Drivers From Wheelchair

Image from West Virginia Division of Rehab Services and Wheelchair Accessible Buying Guide
Georgetown’s Driving Program

- ACCEPTING REFERRALS (502)863-3870 Ext. 2512
- Complete Pre-driving assessments
- Sedan for driver evaluation
- Have basic mechanical controls
- Private Pay, Vocational Rehab, Worker’s Comp
Georgetown Evaluation/Training Car
Georgetown Evaluation/Training Car
Success!!!!
References


References


References


Fit System RM011 Clip-on Wide Angle Rear View Mirror: Automotive. (2018). Retrieved March 03, 2018, from https://www.amazon.com/Fit-System-RM011-Clip-Mirror/dp/B001A0J2JO/ref=pd_rhf_se_s_cp_1_2?_encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=B001A0J2JO&pd_rd_r=E9KH27SCM8N42CZH7J87&pd_rd_w=43KpX&pd_rd_wg=zSjIq&psc=1&refRID=E9KH27SCM8N42CZH7J87