Clinical Implications of the Package of Rehabilitation Interventions for Pediatric-Onset Conditions

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Cerebral Palsy
Autism Spectrum Disorders
Intellectual Disability

These start at birth or very early in development (unlike many later onset conditions - some remove the “re”)

These interfere with many aspects of development (functioning), not just the aspect directly impacted

These conditions have considerable overlap in the areas of functioning affected

These individuals are at higher risk of poor nutrition, living in poverty, being abused and neglected
Rehabilitation Implications

- Burden likely underestimated globally; many not identified or counted (hidden, mis- or undiagnosed)
- Costs of intervening may be high, but costs of not intervening higher
- Early identification and intervention can dramatically alter life trajectory (greatly lessen severity)
- Intervention important across lifespan; effects change over time & require different strategies (no fixed endpoint!)
  - Early on - promoting optimal development
  - Adolescence – maintaining functioning, social aspects prominent
  - Adults – employment an issue, accelerated aging and greater health risks, premature aging and dementia
Outcomes

• Providing services that were non-existent before
• Where resources were available but not optimal, quality and outcomes can be improved
• Changing child, family and community perspective of disability (focus on capabilities rather than limitations)
• More intersectoral interaction essential