

Abstract  
Poster Session B

Thursday, November 14, 2019 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

NEUROLOGICAL AND NEUROPSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS: TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

B-49

**Family Expectations regarding Functional Disability following Moderate/Severe Traumatic Brain Injury**

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**Objective:** The present study explored self-concept and treatment motivation in individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI) based on what their family members recalled having been told by health care professionals to expect about functional changes following brain injury. **Method:** Adult family members (76% female) of nineteen individuals with moderate/severe TBI (mean age 38; 4 yrs post) were asked about expected functional changes. Patients completed the Tennessee Self-Concept Scale (TSCS:2) and Motivation for Rehabilitation Treatment Questionnaire. Patients and families completed the Neurobehavioral Functioning Inventory (NFI). Results of point biserial correlational analyses ( $p < .05$ ) are reported. Results: NFI and TSCS:2 results placed within the average range. Patients expressed stronger interest in rehabilitation when their families had been told that they might not have survived or that they would not recover to their premorbid levels ( $r = .43-.47$ ). When families had not been told to expect changes, patients were more self-critical and evidenced lower personal self-concept if not warned specifically about cognitive problems ( $r = .44$ ). When families were told not to expect recovery, patients acknowledged lower family and personal self-concept ( $r = .53-.64$ ) and poorer self-satisfaction ( $r = .66$ ). **Conclusions:** Key findings underscore detrimental impact on TBI patients when their families did not expect functional changes during recovery. Patients expressed greater interest in rehabilitation when their families had been told they would not recover to their premorbid baseline. Results suggest that health professionals should inform families about potential physical, cognitive, and emotional changes following moderate/severe TBI; negative residua of not doing so may persist in patients for years into recovery.