

HOT Evidence

Disordered Consciousness Following a Traumatic Brain Injury

Why This Matters

- ▶ More patients are surviving a traumatic brain injury (TBI) due to improvements in early resuscitation, interventions, and rehabilitation.
- ▶ Disorders of Consciousness (DoC) diagnoses include comatose, vegetative state/unresponsive wakefulness syndrome (VS/UWS), and minimally conscious state (MCS).
- ▶ Occupational therapy practitioners should provide sensory interventions to people with disordered consciousness following TBI.

Interventions to Improve Level of Consciousness

Unimodal sensory intervention



Familiar voices telling structured stories or reading from a script



Familiar auditory sensory training (FAST)

Multimodal sensory intervention



Music, reading prayers/poems, playing recordings of familiar voices, providing joint mobilization, and applying lotion to hands/feet



Foot reflexology and nature sounds



Affective stimulation with a family member with strong emotional relationship



Daily care provided by nursing (sitting upright, footbath with massage, oral care)



Sensory stimulation program (SSP)



Multimodal coma stimulation including visual, auditory, olfactory, tactile, and gustatory interventions

Find the Evidence

Visit <https://research.aota.org> to review the **Systematic Review Briefs** on this topic