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Research about Spinal Cord Injury Treatment

A Spinal Cord Injury is not only traumatic to the patient but also to their loved ones. After such an event, the entire family is helpless as they aren't aware of the process and most likely, they aren't in the right mindset to be able to make tough life-changing decisions like going into surgery. Therefore, a major part of treating Spinal Cord Injuries is to create a safe and inspiring environment for the patient and family to help them get through the process and to have an encouraging community of therapists and doctors that are constantly by your side. Furthermore, one of the most important phases in treatment is rehabilitation, where the patients and their family are given personal attention and are clearly taught how to use different technologies like their wheelchairs. Unfortunately, after COVID-19, many patients are losing that personal interaction that gave them hope and moreover, their situation has become much more severe as people with SCI are also immune-compromised.

Although healthcare professionals provide online appointments through telemedicine, there are many problems that can arise while explaining virtually, and the experience isn't the same. In addition, as mentioned before current circumstances have increased anxiety and made the process much more difficult to go through due to the additional regulations. As of right now, there aren't many platforms that specifically focus on the needs of SCI patients, and most of the information out there is in the form of long and tedious documents.

My proposal for my original work is to research treatments and SCI technology for treating Spinal Cord injuries and creating plans for an interactive and engaging

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platform that clearly explains the process that they will need to go through. More specifically, I would be focusing on treatments done to youth. This is because adolescence is one of the prime years for growth and the faster they can heal, the better it will be for them in the future. This work entails researching the processes of different treatments already in the market and recording the instructions for their use and then rating the processes based on accessibility, cost, duration, risk factor, etc. Eventually with my research, I will be able to deduct the optimal treatment for each scenario. In order to prepare for the thorough analysis, I will refer to past case studies regarding different treatments for past patients and record their testimonials. Besides case studies, I will also look into patient and therapist stories on their experiences with the technology and gather information on any advice they have for an incoming patient.

This research is the foundation of my plan to create an interactive platform such as a website or brochure which will clearly layout the information in layman's terms for patients and their families and also give them hope that the future can still be bright. In many cases this research can also aid physicians and therapists while they are explaining the treatment plan to the families either virtually or in person, as it decreases contact but would still be able to guide the families through the process without being confused or left helpless. One of the most important things to keep in mind while conducting my research is to be able to clearly provide the information in vocabulary that everyone can understand, regardless of their prior knowledge. On the other hand, this could also be very challenging as I will have to make sure that I fully comprehend the subject myself before paraphrasing the processes. I fully acknowledge that work

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ahead of me will not be easy but knowing that it can help families will be an incentive for me to persevere through the challenges.