

## Handout

**Clinical Connections: Report on a QI Project Prevalence of Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo in a TBI Population**

This QI project looked at the prevalence of Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo (BPPV) in a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) population. There are more than 2.5 million ED visits from TBIs. The lasting implications of TBI included altered cognition, impaired language, deficits in strength, balance, endurance, motor planning, and safety. BPPV is a disorder of the inner ear that results in repeated episodic dizziness. This is secondary to debris that is lodged in a canal causing the room spinning sensation. BPPV has mostly been studied in a non-traumatic population. BPPV is easy to treat once correctly diagnosed, but often results in unnecessary healthcare costs to come to a diagnosis. In this QI project, the physical therapists on Mercy's Brain Injury Rehab wanted to explore a potential prevalence between a traumatic incident and BPPV. Previous studies have looked at screening patients with a TBI for BPPV but only if the patient reported symptoms. This project, because of the nature of brain injury and the significant cognitive affects that result, screened all patients regardless of whether they could report symptoms of dizziness. In our sample, there was a 25.19% prevalence of BPPV, which compared to previous data was found to be statistically significant. We propose that all patients who have a traumatic mechanism of head injury be screened for BPPV regardless of symptom complaints.

**Learning objectives**

Having attended this activity, attendees will:

1. Understand the prevalence of brain injury in the US
2. Understand the prevalence of BPPV in the US
3. Explore the potential relationship between BPPV and TBI
4. Implement a process to address relationship to improve patient outcomes and quality of life

**Target Audience**

Nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech/language pathologists, case managers, social workers, physiatrists/ physicians, fellows, and residents involved with the acute care and rehabilitation of persons with traumatic brain injury are encouraged to attend.

**Faculty listing** (including course directors and moderators)

Regan Harrell, PT, DPT, NCS  
UPMC Mercy

Chelsea Manetta, DPT  
UPMC Mercy

Briana Kelly, MOT, OT/L  
Senior Manager, Rehab Organizations  
UPMC Rehabilitation Institute

**Program schedule**

4pm	Sign in	
4:15pm	Welcome and Introduction	Briana Kelly
4:20pm	Presentation and Q&A	Regan Harrell Chelsea Manetta
5:30pm	Adjourn	

**CME Accreditation and Designation Statement**

In support of improving patient care, the University of Pittsburgh is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

**Physician (CME)**

The University of Pittsburgh designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

**Nursing (CNE)**

The maximum number of hours awarded for this Continuing Nursing Education activity is 1.25 contact hours.

**Other Healthcare Professionals**

Other health care professionals will receive a certificate of attendance confirming the number of contact hours commensurate with the extent of participation in this activity.

This course is being offered for **1.5 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate Level; Professional Area)**.



The University of Pittsburgh is approved by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) to provide continuing education activities in speech-language pathology and audiology. See course information for number of ASHA CEUs, instructional level and content area. ASHA CE Provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures.

The University of Pittsburgh Department of Occupational Therapy is a pre-approved provide of continuing education in Pennsylvania. This course is approved for **1.25 Contact Hours**.

The University of Pittsburgh Department of Physical Therapy is a pre-approve provider of Continuing Education in Pennsylvania. This course is approved for **1.25 units of General Access CEUs**.

This program is offered for **1.25 CE hours of social work continuing education** through co-sponsorship of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work, a Council on Social Work Education accredited school and therefore a PA pre-approved provider of social work continuing education. These credit hours satisfy requirements for LSW/LCSW, LMFT, and LPC biennial license renewal. For information on social work continuing education call **(412) 346-8044**.

**Disclaimer Statement**

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**Faculty Disclosure:**

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