**Article Title**: Rehabilitation of Spinal Cord Injuries

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**Discussion**:

Spinal cord injury (SCI) is a debilitating injury with a wide range of complications, based on the level and severity of injury, involving damage to the spinal cord at any location from the foramen magnum to the cauda equina. Treatment and rehabilitation is a resource intensive process which must be administrated early and with a concerted, interdisciplinary approach. The authors of this study report an average estimated patient care cost of SCI acute care and rehabilitation of $123,674.

This article provides a comprehensive overview of SCI from a rehabilitative context, including their classification and therapeutic strategies at the different stages of the rehabilitation process. The authors elaborate on functional goals, common complications, and present the results of eleven clinical studies evaluating SCI rehabilitation strategies. Early intervention is vital in preventing loss of muscle strength and joint contractures, along with ensuring conservation of bone density and adequate functioning of the GI and respiratory systems. Along with early treatment, the authors also emphasize the importance of a well-informed, interdisciplinary approach.

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Discussion Points:

1. What is the role of the physiatrist in the medical care of patients with SCI?
2. For what duration and to what extent should the physiatrist play a major role in each stage of the SCI patient’s care (i.e. acute, sub-acute, chronic; days, weeks, months, years, and/or decades after injury)?
3. What are the major potential risk factors and complications that must be addressed in SCI rehabilitation?
4. What actionable summaries can be gathered from Table 2? How could the data have been presented more effectively?
5. What is described by tetraparesis and paraparesis and why should the use of these terms be discouraged?
6. Is the ASIA scale for SCI adequate as a classification methodology? Would rehabilitative care benefit from a more specific method of classifying SCI patients?
7. Emerging technologies in SCI rehabilitation are promising but costly. For what aspects of the SCI rehabilitative process are new technologies most promising? How can costly but effective technologies overcome challenges to gain widespread integration?