

Body Neglect: A Challenge in Stroke Recovery and How to Treat it.

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Environmental Changes:

- Television, remote control, glass of water on neglected side
- Nightstand on neglected side
- Stand on paretic side and encourage conversation with the patient
- Wall decoration with family pictures on paretic side
- Sometimes, just written instruction on non affected side that reminds patients to use and look at the other side also helps.
- Playing video games with affected side when appropriate.
- **Emergency equipments like call bell or phone on non affected side. This is to make sure patient is able to reach them in emergency.**

Strategies to use affected area during non rehab time:

- Utilize the affected limb during regular day to day interactions
- Sit on the affected side
- hold/ gently massage affected hand
- Try to engage the affected side with daily tasks like holding picture frame or utensils
- Facilitate body awareness by proper positioning
- Provide reassurance and encourage the use of paretic hand

Words that not to use with stroke recovery patient

- Don't say, you did that again? Or you won't be able to do it?
- Don't concentrate on unsuccessful attempts
- Don't talk about a patient in front of a patient without including him/her into a conversation
- Be kind to a stroke survivor