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The Effects of Virtual Reality in the Rehabilitation of Patients With Parkinson's Disease

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Due to the increased aging, growing chronic and degenerative diseases. Parkinson's disease (PD) is a chronic neurodegenerative disorder, which is caused by the degeneration of substantia nigra cells. The main signs of PD are tremor at rest, muscle rigidity, bradykinesia, idle and commitment in postural control and balance. Being frequent the use of technology applied to rehabilitation, one of them is virtual reality (VR), which stimulates the movement of the whole body by means of computer-based games, in order to recreate and enhance the sense of reality to the player with interactive games. The RV not immersive, the player interacts with the game, but it has the feeling of being in the real world by using, for example, joystick or common screen uses more interfaces for Nitendo Wii or Microsoft Kinect™, to assist in the rehabilitation of elderly people with PD. **Objectives:** To conduct a literature review on the effects of RV in the rehabilitation of patients with Parkinson's disease. **Methods:** A literature review was performed from items available in Scielo databases, PubMed, Lilacs, Medline in August 2017, selecting articles published from 2012 to 2017. **Results and Discussion:** Initially found 85 studies with the theme proposal, among them, 77 were excluded according to the exclusion criteria. Selecting articles 8, 4 case studies and literature reviews 4. Results report that RV helps increase the speed and movement time, gait, balance, postural control and reduction of falls. **Conclusion:** RV helps enhance the physiotherapeutic treatment both in motor control, functionality, balance, and cognitive ability on account of the treatment be playful and need concentration, but still needs more scientific studies with methodological qualities to confirm the results of the RV in rehabilitation in Parkinson's disease.

Keywords: Doença de Parkinson; Equilíbrio; Fisioterapia; Idosos; Reabilitação

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