

Geriatric Physiotherapy

Discuss the following quotations:

The key to successful aging is to pay as little attention to it as possible. ~Judith Regan

The great secret that all old people share is that you really haven't changed in seventy or eighty years. Your body changes, but you don't change at all. And that, of course, causes great confusion. ~Doris Lessing

To be seventy years young is sometimes far more cheerful and hopeful than to be forty years old. ~Oliver Wendell Holmes

Discussion points:

What is geriatric physiotherapy?

Why is it important?

Which health problems is it aimed at?

Vocabulary:

Match the words to their definitions:

limb	return to a normal condition
to be prone to	physical restoration of a sick person
fragility	to have a tendency to something
recovery	lack of physical strength
rehabilitation	arm or leg

Find the synonyms to the following words in the text:

careful	_____
soft	_____
old	_____
lessen	_____
trauma	_____

Reading: Use of Physiotherapy in Geriatric Treatment

Physiotherapy can be quite beneficial to elderly patients. Geriatric physiotherapy became a formally recognized specialty within physiotherapy in 1989.

Geriatric physiotherapy deals with problems of several different types in the older population. One type is issues that arise when an elderly person is out of the habit of moving and exercising and using their limbs.

Physiotherapists use range-of-motion exercises and other therapies to get the person into better shape and able to function at a higher level.

Geriatric physiotherapy also can help with cardiovascular health. Through such therapies as electrical stimulation, exercise, and aqua therapy, the physiotherapist can help reduce the risk of, or aid recovery from, heart disease or stroke.

The elderly are also highly prone to arthritis, osteoporosis, and other skeletal problems. Because of the fragility of some elderly patients, geriatric physiotherapists use milder, more cautious therapies. But among the things they can work on with elderly patients are basic balance and motion issues to decrease the risk of falls, since what would be just a fall in a younger person can often result in significant injuries such as a broken hip in an older person.

People who have had knee or hip replacement surgery sometimes have difficulty getting used to walking and everyday activities due to the changes in their body. Geriatric physiotherapy can use exercise and other therapy during the post-surgery rehabilitation period to make the person more comfortable getting around.

Find the following things in the text:

- 3 types of therapy
- 3 kinds of diseases
- 2 types of surgical operations

Finish the following sentences:

1. Geriatric physiotherapy became a formally recognized specialty in
2. Such types of therapy as electronic stimulation, exercise and aqua therapy can help....
3. Geriatric physiotherapy can use exercise and other therapy during the post-surgery rehabilitation to.....

What problems does geriatric physiotherapy deal with?

How can geriatric physiotherapy help with cardiovascular health?

Why should physiotherapists work with the elderly on basic balance and motion issues?

Why is physiotherapy important during the post-surgery rehabilitation period?

Idioms

Select from the words in the box and complete idiomatic phrases

skin neck heart face chest tooth bones

1. Ironing is my least favourite activity. It's a real pain in the _____.
2. The pass mark was 60% and he got 60.3%, so he made it by the _____ of his teeth.
3. I know I should get to the meeting but I just can't _____ it.
4. She has always kept her feelings for herself. She is not a sort of person to wear her _____ on her sleeve.
5. I just cannot resist chocolate and cakes - I have a sweet _____.
6. The first thing to start solving a problem is to get it off your _____.
7. I think there is going to be trouble at the meeting tonight; I can feel it in my _____.