

Is Traffic Participation Safe?

The Assessment of Traffic Participation in the Netherlands

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Background

The occupational therapists (OT's) in Huntington Expertise Center Topaz Overduin are often asked to determine whether a patient with a neurocognitive disorder such as dementia or Huntington's Disease (HD) can participate independently in traffic, e.g. cycling, walking, driving a car, mobility scooter.

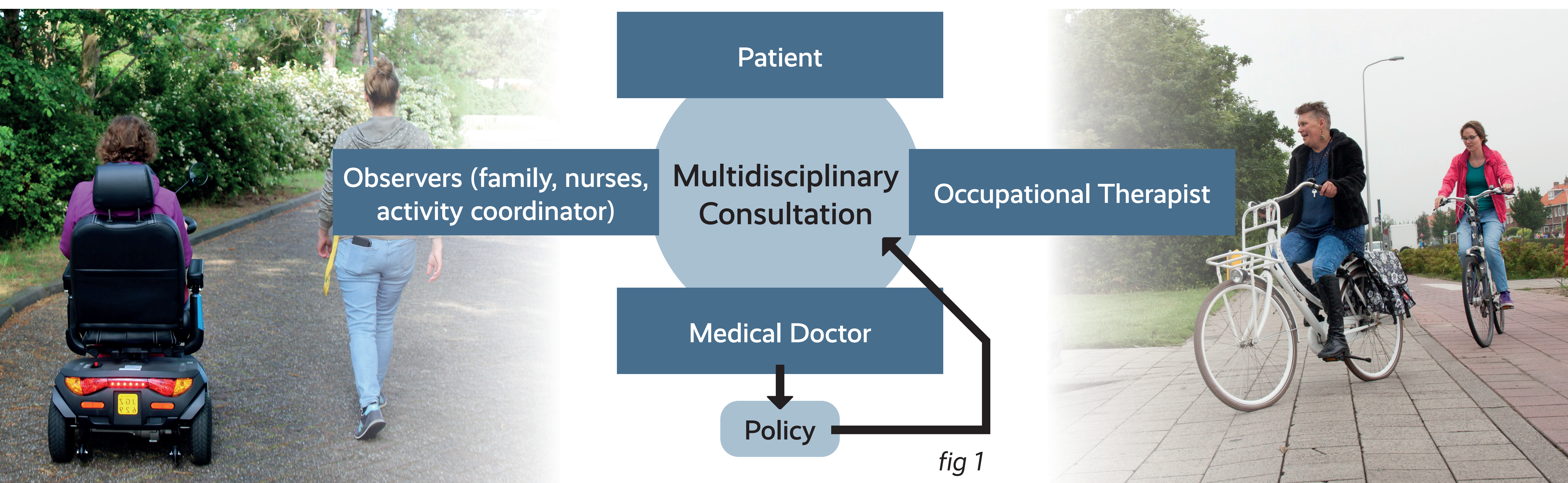
Aim

The aim of this study is to analyze and describe the process of adequately assessing safe traffic participation with regards to both legal and medical procedures.

Methods

Dutch legislation regarding traffic participation was studied. Furthermore, the topic was discussed with an expert group of OT's and discussed in the multidisciplinary HD team about their contributing expertise in this field. This study concerns patients inside our nursing home and patients living at home.

Assessment of Traffic Participation



Results

Main rule Dutch Road Traffic Act: it is prohibited to cause danger or hindrance in public traffic by any means.

Health changes should be declared to the Central Driving License Office for driving motor vehicles. This is a moral but no legal obligation.

No health declaration is obliged for driving a bicycle, moped, mobility scooter or microcar

Assessment of safe traffic participation of patients is not the sole task of the OT, but should always be assessed multi-disciplinary, with the medical doctor as ultimate responsible one (see fig 1)

Future Results

An information letter will be made with a summary of the most important information for patients and their relatives with questions regarding traffic participation.

Conclusions

Instead of one moment of evaluation by one professional, we recommend a multidisciplinary approach in which also family, nurses and other caregivers are important in identifying what is going well and what is not going well in traffic. Ultimately, the involved doctor is the one responsible for making and sharing the conclusions regarding safe traffic participation.