

Return to duty after traumatic injuries: experience of an international collaboration

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This presentation will cover an example of the military rehab till **return to duty** after traumatic injuries within an **international collaboration**. The Queen Astrid Military Hospital (QAMH) in Brussels hosted the rehabilitation from the beginning of 2018 till the end of 2019 of several Ukrainian soldiers wounded and operated on **traumatic war injuries**. The objective of this international collaboration was to help **rehabilitate** these soldiers so they could return to duty.

During this talk the many **challenges** and **opportunities** within this **multi-national** collaboration will be highlighted. The **language barriers** and **cultural differences** influenced their **rehabilitation pathways** obviously and this taking a **biopsychosocial** context into account. But less self-evident was the traumatic nature of the injuries which resulted in a rapid transition within the standard hospital care process from non-traumatic to traumatic treatment capabilities within the physiotherapy department of the QAMH.

This collaboration not only eased the impact on the Ukraine military healthcare system, but provided the opportunity to the QAMH to treat war-wounded military patients within an **multi-disciplinary** context. **Individual goal-based rehabilitation** and operations were provided in order to regain their functions pre-injury as much as possible. Especially this latter, **realistic goal setting** and monitoring, after war injuries supported by the military patient and all the involved healthcare providers appeared key in this cooperation.