

Three- or four-day interprofessional specialised course with integrated patient treatments on the assessment and treatment of patients with sensorimotor and perceptual impairments of the face caused by central and/or peripheral lesions of the facial nerve, based on the F.O.T.T.[®] concept by Kay Coombes and expanding the knowledge and skills taught in the F.O.T.T.[®] Ground Course.

Target group

Physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, examined nurses/carers and doctors

Eligibility requirements

- Regular practical treatment of neurological patients.
- Basic skills in handling, transferring, and positioning patients with typical neurological movement impairments.

Recommended literature for a preparation of the topic

Facial-Oral Tract Therapy (F.O.T.T.) For Eating, Swallowing, Nonverbal Communication and Speech, Ricki Nusser-Müller-Busch, Karin Gamp Lehmann (Editors), 1st Edition 2021, chapter 7 Treating the Face as a Functional Entity: More than practicing facial muscles.

Course leaders/number of participants

1 F.O.T.T.[®] Instructor with a maximum of 12 participants or 2 F.O.T.T.[®] Instructors with a maximum of 14 participants.

Course Objectives

- Understand the functional and everyday significance of the face: Facial expressions, articulation, eating and drinking, oral hygiene, protection of the eyes and performing cultural techniques.
- Develop a holistic understanding of movement impairments in the face.
- Problem-based application of treatment techniques in practical treatment of patients.

Course content

- Typical problems of patients with facial palsy.
- Assessments
- N. facialis and N. trigeminus.
- The influence of a lack of postural control on selective facial movements.
- Basic muscle tone as a prerequisite for activity.
- Passive facial tissue mobilisation.
- Neurodynamic aspects of facial treatment.
- Healing of facial defects and facial synkinesis.
- Therapeutic taping on the face.
- Instruction of the patient for self-treatment.
- Supervised patient treatments in small groups.

Methods

The course content is mainly taught in lectures in combination with practical workshops as well as partner and group work. The practical application takes place in co-operation with patients.