

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 Gampp 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.