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Effect of arousal methods for 175 cases of prolonged coma after severe traumatic brain injury and its related factors.

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OBJECTIVE: To determine the effect of arousal methods for prolonged coma of 175 patients with severe traumatic brain injury and related factors. **METHODS:** There were 175 cases with persistent coma longer than 1 month after severe traumatic brain injury. Coma lasted 1-12 months. Arousal procedures included hyperbaric oxygen, physical therapy and arousal drugs. **RESULTS:** In the 175 prolonged coma patients 110 got recovery of consciousness; in 118 cases with coma of 1-3 months, 86 cases recovered consciousness (72.9%); in 42 cases with coma of 4-6 months, 20 cases recovered consciousness (47.6); and in 15 cases with coma of longer than 6 months, only 4 cases recovered consciousness (26.7%). The recovery of consciousness depended on patient's primary brain stem damage, cerebral hernia, GCS score, and age. **CONCLUSIONS:** Application of appropriate arousal procedures improves recovery of consciousness in patients with prolonged coma.

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