

## Differential Diagnosis for Disorders of Consciousness through Contributive Music Therapy interventions

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Music therapy can provide significant information for a differential diagnosis within an interdisciplinary assessment for patients suffering of a disorder of consciousness such as minimally conscious state. Applying a specific approach during the music therapy assessment through personalized interventions the music therapist can facilitate patient's purposeful responses. Meaningful, emotional and personalized musical experiences can arouse of several neural networks related to consciousness operation, enabling the ability to recruit and coordinate brain regions in minimally conscious state, thus reaching the communicative musicality of a person with disorder of consciousness. Live music seems to be crucial to trigger patient's observable responses thus can contribute for a differential diagnosis between vegetative state and minimally conscious state. In addition, music therapy assessment can provide sensitive data about the patient's potential for rehabilitation and what areas of functioning will likely improve along the interdisciplinary treatment.

By carefully tailoring the musical interventions by combining each musical element, the therapist aims at engaging the patient's innate musical sensitivity and his/her inner resources to rise his/her level of awareness and to awake him/her from the vegetative state by reaching his/her inner musicality.

### Reference:

Lichtensztejn, M., Macchi, P. & Lischinsky, A. (2014). Music Therapy and Disorders of Consciousness: Providing Clinical Data for Differential Diagnosis between Vegetative State and Minimally Conscious State from Music-Centered Music Therapy and Neuroscience Perspectives. *Music Ther Perspect*, 32 (1), 47-55 doi:10.1093/mtp/miu001