Abstract Title: Acceptance Of Disability In Stroke Survivors: A Systematic Review

Authors: Lim J.R. M [1,2] , Neo Y.Y. A [3] , Ng C.J. B [3] , Asano M [1]

[1] Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore, Singapore, Singapore
[2] Department of Neurosurgery, National University Hospital, Singapore, Singapore
[3] Ministry of Health Holdings, Singapore, Singapore

Purpose: To identify measures of acceptance of chronic disability used in post-stroke rehabilitation.
Background: Stroke is the second leading cause of morbidity worldwide. Acceptance of disability is an illness cognition where patients recognises the need to adapt to a chronic illness and perceives the ability to tolerate the unpredictability of the disease. It has been shown to increase ability to cope with the consequences of chronic diseases; thus, it is important to identify tools for measuring acceptance of disability and understand its role in post-stroke rehabilitation.
Methods: This was a systematic review of acceptance of disability in stroke survivors. We identified studies from five electronic databases. Three researchers screened and extracted data from all studies independently using the following inclusion criteria: participants diagnosed with stroke, aged 16 years and above, studies measured acceptance of disability, published in English, and published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. Methodological quality was assessed using the NIH Quality Assessment Tool.
Results: We identified 6379 records and included five studies (published from 2008 to 2015) in our review. The studies had sample sizes ranging from 89 to 344. One study was graded poor quality, while the rest were fair to good. We identified four measurement tools used in stroke survivors: stages of acceptance based on Fink's Theory of acceptance, the Acceptance of Illness Questionnaire, the Acceptance Subscale of Illness Cognition Questionnaire, and the Revised Acceptance of Disability Scale. Factors significantly correlated with acceptance of disability measured using these tools included disease duration, religious beliefs, first stroke, understanding of stroke, confrontational coping mode, capacity for functional activities, family support, and post-stroke depressive symptoms.
Conclusion: Existing tools for measuring acceptance of disability identified in our review appear to be useful in post-stroke rehabilitation to identify patients requiring psychological support to improve coping with the challenges related to stroke.

(Word Count: 300)

Author Biography:
Dr Mervyn Lim Jun Rui is a neurosurgical resident practicing in the National University Hospital of Singapore, and is a part-time Masters in Public Health student of the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health. His research interests lie in stroke, end-of-life care, and the application of technology for improving functional outcomes in patients with neurological impairment.