

00252 The Impact of Stroke on Sexual Functioning of Post Stroke Patients

Hlaing Su Wai, Jodi Theodora Tan Hui May, Eva MAnuquiang Esquillo, Natalie Vasquez Chua, Vanessa Palma Dela Cruz, Noor Asiah Bte Abu Aman

Changi General Hospital

Aims: To explore the impact of stroke on sexual functioning among post stroke patients in an acute stroke unit.

Methodology: One time face to face survey was carried out using an 18 - item questionnaire, Questionnaire on Sexual Functioning Following a Stroke, in an acute stroke unit. Demographic data were also collected including age, gender, ethnicity and marital status to explore correlation amongst these variables and the sexual functioning impact.

Result: A total of 120 participants were surveyed. 79% of the participants had ischaemic stroke and 9% had hemorrhagic stroke. Majority of the participants were 41 - 60 years old (n=108). Most of them were married (n=88). 43% of the respondents had no one to share about their feelings and concerns about sex - related issues after stroke. 52% of male and 77% of female participants were not willing to discuss about resuming sex after their stroke with the healthcare professionals. There was no significant difference in scores between male and female participants and in different types of stroke. Ethnicity and education level had no influence on the response to the questionnaire. There was a significant difference in total scores between age group 1 (20 - 40 years old; M = 30.73, SD = 4.88) and age group 2 (41 - 60 years old; M = 34.85, SD = 6.43; $t(107) = -2.06$, $p = 0.04$, two - tailed). The magnitude of the differences in the means (mean difference = - 4.12, 95% CI: - 8.09 to - .15) was tangibly small (eta squared = .04).

Conclusion: The participants expressed their awareness of sexual self - disclosure in the study response but were not willing to seek treatment openly. Healthcare professionals should be mindful of the overall well - being of the patients after their first stroke and continue to offer an opportunity to share their concerns about post stroke sexual ability.