00422   A Concurrent Mixed Method Study Describing Caregiver Characteristics of Stroke Patients in Singapore.

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Aims: To describe the socio-demographic and caregiving related characteristics of caregivers of stroke patients across different caregiver identities (spouse, sibling, adult-child and others).

Methodology: BACKGROUND: Caregivers adopt multiple roles, including being navigators of healthcare system. Studying trends of healthcare utilization post-stroke, we found caregiver identity to be associated with hospitalization and emergency service use, with spousal caregivers being associated with lowest hospitalization risk. Current analysis explored the differences across caregiver identities to better understand the observed association.

RESEARCH DESIGN: A concurrent mixed methods design (N=272). Variables chosen were from a prospective cohort. Quantitative variables (socio-demographic, perceived burden, etc) were analysed using chi square test and one-way ANOVA. Qualitative data covering caregiver reported positive effects of caregiving was analysed using content analysis. Integration was achieved during analysis and reporting results.

Result: RESULTS: Joint display was used to achieve integration in results from both quantitative (proportions and mean scores) and qualitative (quotes) strands across different caregiver identities. Taking stroke patient's disability level as a proxy of caregiving demands, such differences were highlighted by proportion of moderate to severely disabled care recipients, being 50%, 74%, 79% and 90% respectively for spousal, adult-child, others and sibling caregivers respectively ($p<0.001$). Spousal caregivers reported lowest caregiving burden, followed by others, adult-child and sibling caregivers ($p=0.036$). Themes identified under positive effects of caregiving were enriched relationships (dyadic, familial), patient-centric (physical improvement) and caregiver-centric (self-growth, care of own health, caring for patient). After qualitative data analysis, analytic integration was done by transforming this dataset into quantitative variables and exploring bivariate association with caregiver identity. About 50% of sibling, 35% of adult-child and 14% of spousal caregivers reported improved family relationships ($P<0.001$).

Conclusion: CONCLUSION: Our study reported differences in caregiver attributes across different caregiver identities which will guide future efforts to expand our research on caregiver determinants of stroke patient's healthcare utilization.