Reviewer’s report

Title: Perceptions of self-rated health among stroke survivors: A qualitative study in the United Kingdom

Version: 0 Date: 24 May 2017

Reviewer: Joyce Coker

Reviewer's report:

Overall
This was really interesting piece of research.

Methods

1) Exclusion of stroke survivors that had severe aphasia and cognitive impairments: Although this has been acknowledged in the limitations section, it may be worth viewing this as an area of future research. The findings of this study showed that aphasia influenced SRH. Therefore, despite the difficulty, in order to aid post-stroke care in survivors with severe aphasia, it may beneficial to try to ascertain whether the findings of this study hold for those with severe aphasia i.e. are the coping strategies and factors (modifiable and non-modifiable) for this subgroup of stroke survivors the same or similar.

2) Inclusion of participants with first confirmed stroke: Would these findings be similar for survivors of multiple strokes? It may be worth mentioning in the discussion and/or conclusion that the findings of this study are specifically for first confirmed stroke survivors and may not apply to survivors of multiple strokes.

3) Measure of physical disability was taken either on discharge or at 6-week follow-up outpatients clinic. It is mentioned in the limitation section that in order to minimise variation in different stages of recovery, interviews were carried out between 4-6weeks after stroke. In the same vain, it should be noted that measuring disability either on discharge or 6 weeks after discharge and then using SRH assessment at 4/6months introduces variation. For example, if measure of disability was assessed on discharge and SRH at 4/6 weeks the comparison between objective physical disability and SRH may be inaccurate if improvement has occurred in the 4/6week period.
Findings

4) Figure 1 should be presented and referred to on page 10 where the 3 themes entitled: how am I now? how was I before? how will I be in the future? are being introduced.

5) The psychological influences of how was I before needs to be rewritten as it contains a fair bit of repetition (from line 21 on page 20 to line 38 on page 21).

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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