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Primary care optometric management of post-stroke patients in the UK

Entry details

Main Contact Author Full Name including title (Prof, Dr, Ms etc) | Dr. Amritha Stalin

Main Contact Email | astalin@uwaterloo.ca

Main Contact Job Title | Post doctoral fellow

Main contact place of work /department and university | University of Waterloo

Main contact short bio

Dr. Stalin is a postdoctoral fellow working on understanding the characteristics of visual midline shift in stroke survivors. During her doctoral research, she worked in collaboration with the International Paralympics Committee to develop classification systems for Paralympic skiers with visual impairment.

Area (Health Board or CCG areas and country in which this research was conducted) | UK, Canada, US, India, Hong Kong

Key words:

Stroke, Optometric Management, Vision

Funding & commercial relationships

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I am happy for our presentation at the symposium to be recorded and made available for attendees and others to view | ✓



Submission questions

Title of presentation

Primary care optometric management of post-stroke patients in the UK

Abstract, must include the following four headings: Purpose, Methods, Results, Conclusions

Purpose:

There are about 1 million stroke survivors in the UK, most living with post-stroke consequences, including visual disorders. This number is projected to more than double by 2035. Although early intervention is effective in improving stroke survivors' quality of life, post-stroke visual impairment often goes undiagnosed or unmanaged. This survey was conducted to assess the current status of optometric awareness and involvement regarding post-stroke management in the UK and 4 other countries.

Methods:

Practicing optometrists were invited to complete an online survey through each country's optometric organisations.

Results:

11% of total respondents (n = 276) were from the UK, 50% of them were working in solo practice settings but only 3% reported being fully involved in post-stroke rehabilitation. The vast majority (80%) were only seeing either 0 or 1 to 5 post-stroke patients per month. 50% reported that post-stroke patients are often not managed at all in their locality. However, 80% were interested in being more involved in post-stroke rehabilitation and 90% thought that optometrists should be part of the rehabilitation team - 30% never received any referrals from other post-stroke care professionals. The limiting factors included lack of necessary resources (27%) and funding (67%). 60% of respondents admitted having no knowledge about the quality of evidence in this field.

Conclusions:

Optometrists are well suited to provide post-stroke visual rehabilitation but are not actively or fully participating in the care team. These results will aid in developing models which include primary care optometrists in the rehabilitation of stroke survivors.

Authors & affiliations

Dr, Amritha, Stalin, Post-doctoral fellow, School of Optometry & Vision Science, University of Waterloo, Dr. Stalin is a postdoctoral fellow working on understanding the characteristics of visual midline shift in stroke survivors. During her doctoral research, she worked in collaboration with the International Paralympics Committee to develop classification systems for Paralympic skiers with visual impairment., astalin@uwaterloo.ca

Dr, Tammy, Labreche, Director, Centre for Sight Enhancement; Associate Clinical Professor, School of Optometry & Vision Science, University of Waterloo, Dr. Labreche provides patient care and student education predominantly in the areas of external geriatrics outreach and low vision in association with the university's Centre for Sight Enhancement (CSE). Her clinical expertise and scholarship interests address areas of low vision rehabilitation and geriatric vision outreach., tammy.labreche@uwaterloo.ca

Dr, Susan J, Leat, Professor Emerita, School of Optometry & Vision Science, University of Waterloo, Professor Leat graduated in Optometry from the University of Manchester and completed her Ph.D. and post-doctoral studies at Cardiff University where she founded and directed the Low Vision Clinic. She took a Faculty position in Waterloo in 1991. Her expertise includes low vision and paediatrics., leat@uwaterloo.ca

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