

Quality of communication in the rehabilitation of persons with aphasia and/or dementia: the caregivers perspective

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We propose that performance on a quality of communication scale for caregivers primarily reflects the communication underpinnings that tap the communication effectiveness of persons in rehabilitation with stroke and/or dementia. Demographic differences as related to illness, sex, age, time of disease and communication disorder were studied. These results support the hypothesized associations between caregivers' perspectives for: 1. daily routines & autonomy, 2. self-perception & personality, 3. social life & interaction and 4. Cognitive and communication skills and 5. other general questions. Individuals for stroke (Mean=2.94, $p=0.009$ 0.05) as compared to individuals with dementia (Mean=3.37) showed statistically significant differences with regard to self-perception and personality. Moreover, for both groups social life and interaction (3.) was found to be significantly worse, especially for females (Mean=3.96, $p=0.015$ 0.05) as compared to males (Mean=3.44). Both groups with more than 11 years of having either stroke or dementia showed statistically significant differences mean=3.43 ($p=0.028$ 0.05) in the area of cognitive and communication skills however if the speech and language is not effected this result is also significant (Mean=3.27, $p=0.022$ 0.05). Moreover, an analysis of the statistically significant differences between the two groups revealed an intriguing association for two groups of caregivers. Results of this demographic analysis suggest that examining quality of communication from the caregivers' perspective can provide a useful way to bring undefined views of caregivers into closer alignment with the rehabilitation outcomes of communication quality.