

Health professionals' experience of diagnosing and managing stroke patients with dementia & cognitive impairment: a qualitative study

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Background

- People with dementia have poorer functional outcomes after stroke than those without.
- Are poorer outcomes linked to rehabilitation patients receive post-stroke?
- Research shows such patients do benefit from rehabilitation but are less likely to be referred.
- Clinicians have to decide if patients possess rehabilitation potential early after stroke.
- Unknown whether dementia impacts on decisions about rehabilitation potential.

Aims: To identify a) factors influencing decision-making about stroke rehabilitation for people with pre-existing dementia/cognitive impairment
b) how these factors influence clinical practice.

Findings

Methods

- Individual semi-structured interview with healthcare professionals.
- Purposive sampling from multi-disciplinary stroke teams (acute, inpatient rehabilitation and community services) across two NHS Trusts in Greater Manchester.
- 23 participants from range of professions (OT, Physio, SALT, Nurse, Medicine, Psychology).
- Findings analysed using Thematic Analysis.

