IMPACT OF STROKE CONSEQUENCES ON FAMILY

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INTRODUCTION OF STROKE

• Cerebrovascular accident (CVA)
• Top leading cause of death
• Will cause to
  • Aphasia
  • Cognitive deficit
  • Depression
  • Physical dysfunction
  • Developing to dementia

➤ It not only a disease for the patients but also a burden for their families

(Han & Haley, 1999; Schulz et al., 1988; Smith et al., 2004)
• Stroke patients often have
  • significant recovery during the first 3 weeks
  • gradually regain their motor function in the following 18 months

  (Bonita & Beaglehole, 1988; Han & Haley, 1999)

• Variety level of functional impairment in a different time periods
  ➢ Families need different kinds of coping for short-term crisis and long-term caring burden

  (Han & Haley, 1999)
THE IMPACT ON FAMILY FUNCTIONING AND MARITAL RELATIONSHIP

• Finances
• Quality of life
• Mental health
• The changes in role of families
Finances

- the family member who takes the responsibility to take care of the client will probably have problems to keep their jobs which increase the financial burden seriously

(Schulz et al., 1988)
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Quality of life
• the influence of social life and sex life
• lose personal time
• don’t have people to talk to
• lack of connection with society
• original stable and reciprocal relationship between spouse
  → one-way relationship

(Coughlan & Humphrey, 1982; Thompson & Ryan, 2009; Visser-Meily, et al., 2006; Webster et al., 1981)
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Mental Health

• The sudden crisis and the burden of care giving are very stressful for a family, especially for the person, usually the wife, who offers the primary support for the patient.
  • depression, anxiety, fatigue and burnout are common emotional disorders among caregivers

(Han & Haley, 1999; Schulz et al., 1988; Visser-Meily, et al., 2006)
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The changes in role of families

• Patient
  • Primary wage earner → needs to be looked after
  • Partner → caretaker

• Caregiver
  • Commuter / housewife → caregiver
  • Spouse → caregiver

(Schulz et al., 1988; Visser-Meily, et al., 2006)
CONCLUSION

• Stroke is a life-changing event which has a serious impact both for the patients and their families.

• Since family relationship may have influence on the recovery of patients, therapists should treat family members as co-client and try to satisfy their needs and further improve the outcomes of patients.


