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Abstract 10

CAREGIVERS KNOWLEDGE ON “APHASIA” BASED ON 'LIFE PARTICIPATION APPROACH TO APHASIA MODEL; A SRI LANKAN EXPERIENCE

Jayarathna T.V, Rathnayake S, Mettananda KCD
Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya.

Introduction

Caregiver knowledge on 'aphasia' is very important in successful rehabilitation of aphasic patients. There are no published data on this from Sri Lanka.

Objectives

We aimed to describe knowledge on aphasia of caregivers caring post-stroke aphasia patients based on 'life participation approach to aphasia' (LPAA) model.

Methods

We studied knowledge on aphasia of caregivers caring post-stroke aphasic patients at 3 state sector speech and language therapy clinics of Gampaha district from March to April 2019. Data on language & related impairments and communication & language environment were collected using an interviewer administered questionnaire. Data were analyzed using SPSS version 22.

Results:

35 caregivers (male-13(37.1%), mean age 50.4 ± 16.8) caring aphasia patients for more than 1 year were interviewed. All were close relatives of the patients. 77% had studied only up to grade-10. 64.7% knew the primary medical diagnosis and 60% knew the organ involved. However, 68.6% had never heard the term “aphasia”. Only 51.4% appreciated aphasia is a language problem. 57% thought it is a memory problem while 14% thought it is a psychiatry problem. Caregivers' knowledge about expressive language was good; 79%, 92%, 96% knew the correct levels of speech, reading and writing skills of patients compared that identified by speech & language therapists (SLT). However, knowledge about comprehensive language was not satisfactory; 88.6% thought their clients can't obey comprehensive commands but it was 42% according to SLTs.

Conclusion:

Knowledge on aphasia of caregivers of this Sri Lankan cohort is not satisfactory. Formal education of caregivers seems a way forward in successful rehabilitation programs.