

MRT - COMPARISON OF REHABILITATION OUTCOMES FOR PERSONS AFTER STROKE IN LATVIA AND SWEDEN

Guna Berzina

Riga Stradiņš University, Riga, Latvia

Introduction: One of the ways towards better stroke care is by investigating and comparing the outcomes of the systems that are currently in use.

The purpose of this thesis was to explore the determinants of rehabilitation outcomes for persons after stroke and to compare them between those living in Latvia or in Sweden, using the bio-psycho-social model suggested by World Health Organization (WHO).

Method and Results. This project was focused on comparison between two in-patient rehabilitation systems and its outcomes in Latvia and Sweden, the influence of dependence level at discharge from rehabilitation on self-perceived disability in chronic phase of stroke for persons from Latvia and personal factors' role in perception of functional limitations, barriers and facilitators in persons living in Sweden. It seems that the components of stroke care are similar in rehabilitation systems in Latvia and Sweden. However, both populations vary in their basic medical and socio-demographic characteristics, as well as in the level of independence at admittance and discharge. There are also potential differences in the content and organizational aspects of rehabilitation. The levels of independence in daily activities at discharge from rehabilitation are significant factors that influenced perception of disability in the chronic phase of stroke. Personal factors such as age, gender, place of residence and time since onset of stroke can influence self-perceived functioning and environmental factors, in persons living in Sweden.

Conclusion. Functional, organizational, social and personal factors are of importance determining outcomes of stroke rehabilitation.