

Return to work of stroke patients after treatment in Prasat Neurological Institute.

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Objective: To study the rates and correlating factors regarding return to work of stroke patients after treatment.

Designs: Retrospective descriptive cohort study

Settings: Prasat Neurological Institute

Subjects: 198 stroke patients who received treatment and were subsequently discharged from the Prasat Neurological Institute during January 2010 - December 2011

Methods: Patient medical records (from database queries) were reviewed to select patients who satisfied the inclusion criteria of the study. Follow-up questionnaires about patient's return to work were sent to the patients via post.

Results: It was found that 71.72 % of the 198 stroke patients surveyed can return to work. According to the results of univariate analysis of treatment and subsequent return to work patient data, statistically significant differences were found that correlated with occupation, job characteristics, muscle weakness, aphasia of speech, altered level of consciousness (Glasgow coma score < 15), pre-discharge Barthel index (BI) score, and physical therapy during hospital admission. Logistical regression analysis (multivariate analysis) indicated that only two factors; occupation and pre-discharge BI score, contributed to the predication of return to work. The ratio for patients who were employees with a private company vs. as employees of government (ie. government official, government employee, state enterprise employee) had BI scores of 80-100 vs. 0-39, which were 1.279 (0.255-6.41) and 7.333 (2.821-19.062) respectively (with 95% confidence intervals).

Discussion and Conclusions: Significant predictors of return to work after stroke were occupation and pre-discharge BI score.

Key Words: stroke, return to work