

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Data S1: Comments generated in focus group

The materials below are comments from those who participated in our focus group discussing the strengths and limitations of various patient reported outcome measures used in stroke. The comments have been grouped under common themes, some comments are placed in more than one theme. The person who made the comment is described in parenthesis.

Stroke impact scale too long / difficult to complete

Some aspects not relevant to stroke (nurse)

Size is very off-putting, but useful content (nurse and research nurse 1)

This is too long (research nurse 2)

Too much emphasis on physical aspects of stroke (clinical psychologist)

There is a lot of repetition (stroke survivor 1)

Far too many words (stroke survivor 1)

In first weeks after stroke, I wouldn't be able to understand this (stroke survivor 2)

Content in this is good but looks like hard work (stroke survivor 3)

Some editing required, uses too many or confusing words and terms (stroke survivor 3)

Would need to think of the best time to use this, may not work in first days after stroke (stroke survivor 3)

Would need to include a carer to complete this (OT)

Difficult to get balance between content and length (physiotherapist)

For research a more extensive questionnaire is needed, for clinical practice a shorter version is better (stroke physician)

Wording of certain items could be improved

Too many Americanisms (nurse)

Wording is not the language most people would use (stroke survivor)

Language seems negative eg "how difficult" rather than "how easy"

There is a lot of repetition (stroke survivor 1)

Far too many words (stroke survivor 1)

In first weeks after stroke, I wouldn't be able to understand this (stroke survivor 2)

Some editing required, uses too many or confusing words and terms (stroke survivor 3)

This would be hard for someone with cognitive problems (OT)

I don't think any of the sentences are quite right (stroke survivor 3)

Stroke impact scale is a detailed assessment

This may be best as others not detailed enough, can we add some questions from this to other questionnaires (research nurse3)

In first weeks after stroke, I wouldn't be able to understand this (stroke survivor 2)

Content in this is good but looks like hard work (stroke survivor 3)

Some aspects of recovery not captured by Stroke Impact Scale

Doesn't capture role of the carer (stroke carer)

Too much emphasis on physical aspects of stroke (clinical psychologist)

Should there be a question on sleep/fatigue (stroke survivor 3)

Comments on short form SIS

Short form Stroke Impact Scale may have benefits over the traditional scale

Other questions seem about right (clinical psychologist)

Like the questions except communication – only asks about understanding, doesn't mention speaking (nurse)

This is best of the three questionnaires but doesn't cover enough (stroke survivor 2)

The questions are easier to understand in this version (research nurse 1)

Very long and very short versions may have a role in differing situations (stroke survivor 3)

Short form Stroke Impact Scale may not capture some aspects of recovery

Like the questions except communication – only asks about understanding, doesn't mention speaking (nurse)

Too "bare bones" one question to cover each area not enough (research nurse 3)

Lose too much in the short version, I would end up elaborating on each question (research nurse 3)

Doesn't make sense to make it so short, is there a compromise (research nurse 3)

This seems very focussed on physical recovery (stroke carer)

This doesn't address the emotional impact of stroke (stroke survivor 1)

This is best of the three questionnaires but doesn't cover enough (stroke survivor 2)

This seems very short, could we have 16 questions rather than 8? (stroke survivor 3)

Very long and very short versions may have a role in differing situations (stroke survivor 3)

Wording of certain questions could be improved

Can you think quickly question – seems abstract, is this relevant? (clinical psychologist)

Question "walking" add something about balance. (stroke survivor 1)

None of the scales are really suitable (stroke survivor 3)

Question "how difficult was it to understand.." , what about responding? (stroke survivor 3)

Question "think quickly", this is difficult to answer. (stroke survivor 3)

Question “walk fast”, slow and steady is better than fast and falling (stroke survivor 3)

Don't like the walking question (stroke survivor 3)

Steering group members of the Virtual International Stroke Trials Archive (VISTA)

VISTA-Acute

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