Oral Communication
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The International Spinal Cord Injury Community Survey: Preliminary Results From Data Collection in Cameroon

Topic: ICF

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BACKGROUND

Mortality and functioning limitations associated with spinal cord injury remain a major concern for healthcare systems particularly in developing countries. The International Spinal Cord Injury Community Survey (InSCI) is an international multicenter research project which aims to describe the lived experience of people with spinal cord injury living in communities in participating countries. We present the preliminary results of the implementation of InSCI in Cameroon. The aim of the study was to generate evidence on living conditions, functioning status and health care challenges of individuals with SCI by means of a self-reported community survey in Cameroon.

METHODS

The survey was a cross-sectional descriptive and analytical study during a period of six months. Participants were adults aged 18 years or older having presented a traumatic or non-traumatic SCI due to vascular causes and infections, auto-immune diseases, malignant tumors, toxic agents or radiation. The respondents were individuals living with SCI in the community in Cameroon, able to respond to the questionnaire, and who provided informed consent. Eligible participants to contact were registered in archives department of three hospitals and one Non-Governmental Organization based in Yaoundé.

RESULTS

Sixty eighth individuals with SCI were interviewed. Among respondents 53 (77.9%) were male. The mean (SD) age of participants was 41.4 ±12.0 years. Mean (SD) time since SCI was 8.8 ±7.8 years. Pain, spasticity and sexual problems were the most relevant health problems and reported respectively by 91%, 75%, 69.5% of respondents. Mobility aids were the most represented assistive products used by the respondents but maintenance services were very low. Assessment of home accessibility highlighted that home entrance was frequently rated as inaccessible with 60.3% describing it as either "very bad" or "bad," while 4.8% considered it "very good." Among the participants who were working before SCI, 80.7% have not returned to work after the initial rehabilitation.

CONCLUSION

Individuals living with SCI in the community in Cameroon presented with diverse health problems requesting interdisciplinary team to provide person-centered care. Provision and maintenance services of assistive products were inappropriate to respond to specific user's needs. Environmental barriers hindered individual's participation in the society.

Statement of Disclosures

None

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