

ABSTRACT

**Family support and functional outcomes
of stroke patients**

Geraldine Halls

Stroke is one of the major disorders seen among hospitalised patients in Jamaica and other Caribbean countries. There seems to be, a great need for a better understanding of the dynamics between the functional outcomes of the stroke patients and family support, as so many patients are discharged home after hospitalisation.

This study was designed to examine the functional outcomes of stroke patients treated and discharged from University Hospital of the West Indies during 1993, in relation to family support. A questionnaire, 'Strokequest' was used to collect data from the 35 patients who were included in the study.

The results of the study showed that there was a positive correlation between family support and functional outcome. Other socio biological variables such as age, self esteem and severity also had an association.

The study identified education and counselling of family members, introduction of community based rehabilitation, greater interface between primary care and secondary care health providers as critical recommendations aimed at improving the functional outcomes of stroke patients and thereby enhancing their potential for social integration.