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QUANTIFYING THE IMPACT OF CHRONIC PAIN ON ENGAGEMENT IN PAID WORK (QUICK). DESIGNING A NEW QUESTIONNAIRE TOOL BY COMPARING THE LITERATURE TO PATIENT AND STAKEHOLDER PRIORITIES

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Background

Chronic pain impacts people's working lives[1]. Currently there is no standard instrument to assess the range of impacts.

Aims

The QUantifying the Impact of Chronic pain on engagement in paid work (QUICK) study is designing a new questionnaire tool with input from patients/stakeholders to capture the range of impacts that people living with chronic pain experience.

Methods

We undertook a systematic review of studies that explored the impact of chronic pain on work in line with PRISMA guidelines[2]. The results were presented in deliberative focus groups[3] to people with chronic pain, employers, researchers and healthcare professionals to explore experiences of chronic pain and work and how these relate to the literature. Data were analysed thematically[4].

Results

Our review identified 62 studies (46 quantitative, 16 qualitative) for inclusion. Quantitative studies identified in the review often investigate chronic pain and work from the perspective of productivity loss, with a focus on absenteeism and presenteeism. The qualitative studies and focus group data from 50 participants demonstrated that patients and stakeholders understand and experience the topic more comprehensively. Whilst participants understood the importance of productivity, they also highlighted aspects such as: seeking job modifications, the fluctuating nature of pain, relationships with colleagues, and economic consequences.

Conclusions

Quantitative studies exploring chronic pain and work do not reflect what matters to patients and stakeholders and miss the wider impacts of chronic pain on work. The QUICK study is taking these conclusions forward into the design of a new research instrument.

References:

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