Vocational Rehabilitation for Young Stroke Survivors in Gauteng Public Healthcare: Occupational Therapists’ Attitudes and Perceptions
Data Collection & Analysis

- Qualitative research design
- Narrative, descriptive data collected
- 6 focus groups
- Occupational therapists from primary, secondary and tertiary public health care setting participated
- More than six months experience AND
- Worked in neuro rehab within the last six months
- Groups were audio recorded and transcribed
- Coding based on recurring themes and categories
Results

• Three major themes:
  1. Attitudes towards vocational rehabilitation
  2. Barriers towards vocational rehabilitation
  3. Facilitators to vocational rehabilitation
1. Vocational rehabilitation is a complex process
   - Time consuming
   - Lack of knowledge
   - Voc rehab process is not established
2. We already have too much work
3. It’s out of our control
4. The hierarchical nature of treatment
5. The nature of stroke
   – Young/acute
   – Old/chronic
1. The rehabilitation environment
   – Resources
   – Communication

2. Characteristics of the stroke survivor
   – Severity of the stroke
   – Socioeconomic status
   – Employment status
3. Nature of the work
   – Executive functioning
   – Manual Labour
   – Specialist skills
Facilitators to Vocational Rehabilitation

1. External resources
2. Policy and legislation
3. Undergraduate knowledge
Conclusion

• Vocational rehabilitation is a complex, but rewarding process
• There is a lot of potential for vocational rehabilitation in Gauteng public health
• The perceived barriers can be overcome
• Negative attitudes can be overcome
  – Job satisfaction
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