Abstracts

INTRODUCTION

Arthritis and related rheumatic conditions are common causes of work disability in Canada and the United States, with job loss ranging between 37%-60% within the first 10 years of diagnosis. As diagnosis commonly occurs between the ages of 30–60 years, the symptoms of pain, limited mobility, and fatigue can seriously disrupt and hinder work lives. While research has examined disability and work loss among persons with arthritis (PwA), little is known about what they do to maintain employment. Our goal was to understand how PwA experience employment and to use this information to build a model describing what they need to sustain employment.

METHODS

We searched published studies on arthritis and employment from six electronic databases (1980–2017) and bibliographical reviews using a combination of keywords related to arthritis, employment, and qualitative research. Our search yielded 748 articles, and after applying the inclusion criteria, 17 studies remained. Two reviewers independently reviewed, critically appraised, and extracted concepts from each study in chronological order.

RESULT

Using a meta-ethnographic process, we identified seven themes highlighting the common issues experienced by PwA. Using these themes, we developed a process model that illustrates how individual factors (i.e., physical symptoms, self-awareness, meaning of work) influence work-sustainability strategies that are initially privately managed (i.e., personal adjustments, medical treatment, family support); however, when symptoms become too difficult to conceal, individuals will disclose their condition to their employer so that they can draw upon additional work-sustainability strategies (i.e., work accommodations, supervisor and co-worker support, insurers). Individuals engage in these strategies to maintain a ‘non-ill’ identity and remain in their current job for as long as possible.

DISCUSSION

Our findings will help rehabilitation specialists, employers, and researchers understand what PwA may need to sustain meaningful employment outcomes. Implications to workplace policies and practices are discussed.

A TAILORED WORK-RELATED SUPPORT INTERVENTION FOR GASTRO-INTESTINAL CANCER PATIENTS: INTERVENTION PROTOCOL

Introduction

The objective was to develop a tailored intervention for work-related problems to support gastro-intestinal (GI) cancer patients and to evaluate its cost-effectiveness compared with the usual care provided.

METHODS

We designed a multicentre randomised controlled trial with a follow-up time of twelve months. Included participants will be aged 18–63 years, diagnosed with a curative primary GI cancer and employed at time of diagnosis. The participants will be randomised to the intervention or to usual care.

References

1. AnneClaire GNM Zuman*, 2Angela GEM de Boer, 3Kristien MAJ Tuytga, 4Jean HG Klinkenbijl, 1Monique HW Frings-Dresen. 1Academic Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam, Department Coronel Institute of Occupational Health, Amsterdam Public Health research institute, Amsterdam The Netherlands; 2Academic Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam, Department of gastroenterology, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; 3Gelse Hospital, Department of Surgery, Apeldoorn, The Netherlands; 4University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

10.1136/oemed-2018-ICOHabstracts.1581

From: http://oem.bmj.com/ on September 16, 2023 by guest. Protected by copyright.