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Staying in work after a stroke: A qualitative analysis of online forum data

Each year 110,000 people in England suffer a stroke, a quarter of whom are of working age. Some people are able to recover and return to work whereas others have severe residual impairments which makes a successful return extremely difficult. The UK stroke strategy highlighted the importance for people to participate in employment after a stroke. However, not much is known yet on barriers and facilitators to staying in work after stroke. In the Work After Stroke Study, we qualitatively explored staying in work after a stroke among stroke survivors who had returned to work, using data from an online forum on which stroke survivors shared their experiences. Findings will be presented, as well as methods and difficulties in using online forum data discussed.