FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH BOTHERSOME BEHAVIORS AS IDENTIFIED BY STROKE FAMILY CAREGIVERS

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Stroke is the leading cause of disability in the United States and is a sudden event that families cannot prepare for. The behaviors that family caregivers identify as bothersome can lead to family caregiver stress, which can result in premature institutionalization of the survivor. The purpose of our research was to discover demographic and theory-based factors associated with the most bothersome behaviors as identified by stroke caregivers. Demographic and theory-based factors include such things as caregiver and survivor age, gender, race, education, perceived income, employment, relationship of caregiver to the survivor, task difficulty, appraisal, depressive symptoms, and life changes. A secondary analysis was conducted using baseline data from 2 existing research projects. The sample consisted of 96 family caregivers of stroke survivors who were enrolled either in a randomized controlled clinical trial testing a caregiver intervention, or a descriptive stroke caregiver study. Data were collected from both studies using a demographic data form, the Oberst Caregiving Burden Scale, Appraisal of Caregiving Scale, PHQ-9 Depressive Symptoms scale, Bakas Caregiving Outcomes Scale, and the Revised Memory and Behavior Problems Checklist. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, t tests, Analysis of Variance, Pearson r, and Multiple Regression. Results from this study help to identify potential areas for future nursing interventions designed to reduce caregiver stress by identifying factors associated with bothersome behaviors of stroke survivors as perceived by their family caregivers.

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