

Tweets and Friends: Using Social Media for Communication after Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)



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Melissa Brunner @LissBEE_CPSP · 13h
Connecting socially is challenging for many people who have a #TBI, impairments affect social function in real life & online

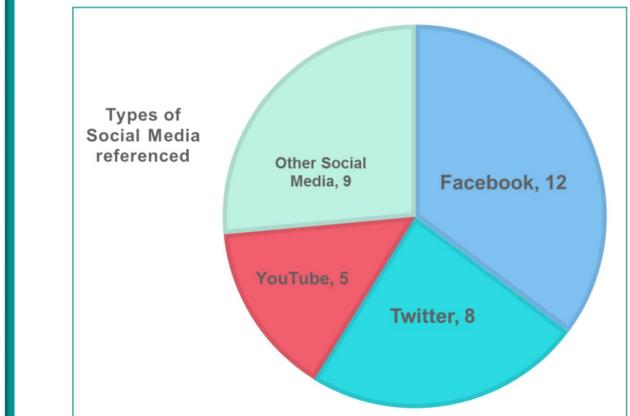
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Social media offers an important way of connecting w/ family, friends & community. Little is known about how people w/ #TBI use #socialmedia

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Aim: To review literature relating to the use of #socialmedia by people with #TBI

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Methods: Search 10 electronic databases. Search terms relating to #TBI & #socialmedia. Thematic content analysis & metasynthesis

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Results: 16 included studies. Three main categories of 7 content themes emerged re #socialmedia use post #TBI

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Results: Larger emphasis on 'Benefits and Risks', limited focus on 'Facilitators'. Types of #socialmedia:

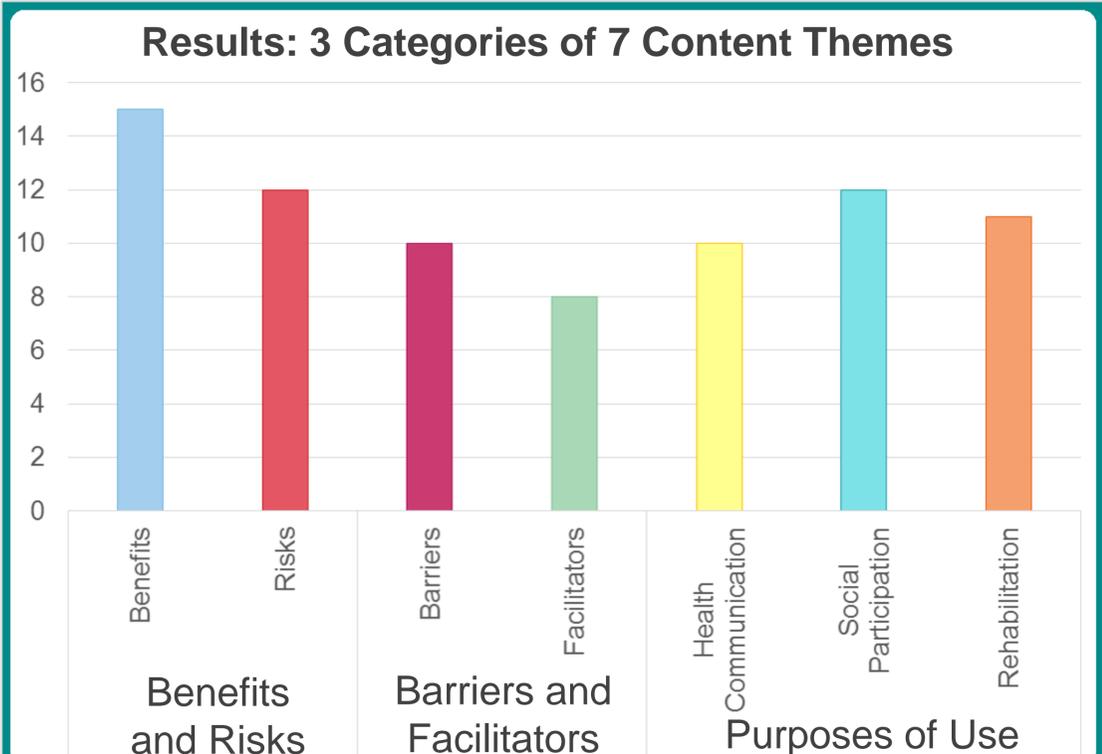


Other people in social media may not be aware of the individual's TBI and 'for this reason, Social Media has become very important to me. Social Media is my new, virtual, happy place! I no longer have a brain injury. I am whole. I am a free and unencumbered spirit' Upton 2014, p16

Barriers perceived by participants were often attributed to challenges in access, with 'forgetting passwords' considered a significant barrier to social media use Tsaousides et al. 2011, p1158

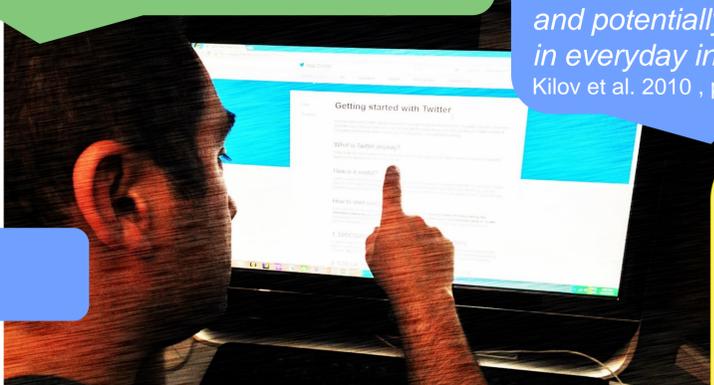
Scan this QR Code to read more about #TwitterMind research

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Barriers to use of social networking sites 'could potentially be addressed through hands-on training' Tsaousides et al. 2011, p1160

'Online conversations with peers may assist communication and social skills that enable them to be more proficient and potentially more socially accepted in everyday interactions' Kilov et al. 2010, p1169



Social networking sites allow people to share and spread information 'whether they are followers, lurkers or persons simply exploring this medium' Sullivan et al. 2012, p262

People with disabilities after TBI 'are faced with additional hazards... and required assistance to maintain safety in our ever-changing virtual social world' Conway et al. 2012, pE15

Social media may reduce social isolation as it may allow people with TBI 'to engage in social interactions on their own terms' Tsaousides et al. 2011, p1160

Use of social media by people with TBI 'could provide a natural context for generalization of therapy skills and high level communication skills outside clinical contexts' Kilov et al. 2010, p1169

Twitter 'has the potential to connect with the busy 'now' generation' and the ability feed the ever-growing 'information-hungry audience' Sullivan et al. 2012, p262

'I have developed friendships there [Twitter] that are as meaningful as real life ones and in many ways, more supportive' Jeejeebhoy 2014, p22

'Social media provides a venue that levels the playing field for some' Smith 2011, slide18

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Conclusions: Further research addressing ways to reduce barriers & increase facilitators for use of #socialmedia by people w/ #TBI is needed

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Conclusions: Need further research investigating how people w/ #TBI use micro-blogging social networking sites (i.e. Twitter)

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Conclusions: Facilitators for people w/ #TBI include training them & their communication partners how to enjoy & use #socialmedia safely

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