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

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

Results: 3 Categories of 7 Content Themes

Benefits and Risks

Barriers and Facilitators

Health

Communication

Social Participation

Rehabilitation

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

‘The potential benefits appear endless’ Conway et al. 2012, pE15

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

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

‘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’ Sullivan et al. 2012, p262

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

‘Have developed friendships there [Twitter] that are as meaningful as ‘real life ones and in many ways, more supportive’ Joeesheehoy 2014, p22

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

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

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

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