

Effects of positive thinking intervention on negative emotions and quality of life in stroke patients: a scoping review

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Author contributions

Xin Fan and Mei Wang were responsible for research design and document analysis. Xin Fan, Mei Wang and Xiang-Shu Cui have contributed to the revision of the manuscript. All authors have read and agreed to the final draft.

Competing interests

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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Abstract

Objective: To analyze domestic and international studies on the effects of positive thought intervention therapy on negative emotions and the quality of life of stroke patients to provide a reference for future related studies. Methods: Using the scoping review method as a guide, computer searches of PubMed, Web of Science, Embase, Cochrane Library, China National Knowledge Infrastructure, Wanfang Database, China Vipers Full Text Database and China Biomedical Literature Database were conducted to collect relevant studies on the application of positive thinking interventions in stroke patients from the establishment to January 2023, and the literature was screened according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria, and the data were extracted and analyzed by two investigators independently. Results: The search yielded 964 publications, and a total of 19 were included. The time of publication, study site, study population, study design, study length, and type of results of the included studies was summarized and analyzed. Conclusions: Positive thinking-based interventions have shown significant changes in negative emotions such as anxiety and depression in stroke patients and can reduce somatic pain, enhance their social integration, and improve their quality of life. However, interventions in the areas of self-compassion, artificial intelligence and the adoption of tailoring need to be further explored.

Keywords: positive thinking intervention; stroke; negative emotions; quality of life; scoping review

Background

Stroke is an acute cerebrovascular disease caused by the rupture of blood vessels in the brain or due to vascular obstruction, and the lifetime risk of stroke in China has been as high as 39.9%, which is the second leading cause of death worldwide and a major cause of disability in patients [1, 2]. Therapeutic interventions and post-stroke management of stroke patients are necessary because they can suffer from a variety of physical and psychological problems secondary to treatment, such as post-stroke depression, fatigue, anxiety disorders, post-stroke dementia, epilepsy, sleep disorders, and chronic pain, which can have a serious impact on the quality of life of patients [3, 4]. In 1979, Kabat-Zinn applied positive stress reduction therapy to clinically improve patients' quality of life [5]. Positive thinking intervention was developed in the medical field. Positive thinking intervention (mindfulness cased intervention) is an intervention that helps patients explore and identify adaptive reflections. This intervention can improve stroke patients' level of self-control over their bodies, reduce their psychological stress and burden, and promote their psychological well-being, which can have a beneficial effect on their illness [6]. Therefore, this study used the framework approach of the Arksey and O'Malley scoping review to summarize and analyze the relevant domestic and international literature in this field and to review the effectiveness of the application of positive thinking interventions for stroke patients in order to provide a reference for the treatment of stroke patients [7].

Materials and methods

Information methodology

Identification of research questions. Positive thinking interventions are divided into various types according to different populations [6]. This scoping review identifies the population as stroke-related patients, thus exploring them in terms of positive thinking stress reduction, positive thinking cognition, positive thinking therapy, and positive thinking interventions. After an initial search of the literature, the researchers identified the research questions for this scoping review: 1. what is the current status of research on positive thinking-based interventions to provide support for stroke patients? 2. What are the specific effects of implementing a positive thinking intervention? 3. What are the components of positive thinking interventions?

Identify relevant studies. Computer searches were performed on PubMed, Web of Science, Embase, Cochrane Library, China National Knowledge Infrastructure, Wanfang Data Knowledge Service Platform, China Vipers Full Text Database, and China Biomedical Literature Database. English databases were searched using a combination of MeSH subject terms and free terms using PubMed as an example. ("Mindfulness" (MeSH terms) or "Meditation" (MeSH terms) or "Mindfulness" (Title/Abstract) or "Meditation" (Title/Abstract) or "mindfulness based intervention" (Title/Abstract) or "MBSR" (Title/Abstract) or "mindfulness based stress reduction" (Title/Abstract) or "mindfulness based cognitive therapy" (Title/Abstract) or "Vipassana" (Title/Abstract)) and ("Stroke" (MeSH terms) or "stroke*" (Title/Abstract) or "cerebrovascular accident*" (Title/Abstract) or "brain vascular accident*" (Title/Abstract) or "Apoplexy" (Title/Abstract)), Chinese databases were searched on the China National Knowledge Infrastructure, for example, with the search formula (topic = positive intervention + positive cognition + positive therapy + positive stress reduction) and (topic = stroke + cerebral hemorrhage + cerebral infarction + stroke). The search time frame was from the creation of the database to January 2023.

Literature inclusion and exclusion criteria. Inclusion criteria: 1. study subjects: stroke patients who were diagnosed by computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging and met the diagnostic criteria of "Diagnostic Essentials of Various Types of Cerebrovascular Diseases in China", with no restrictions on age, gender, disease duration, and staging, and clear consciousness [8]. 2. Interventions:

positive mind-based interventions, such as positive mind decompression therapy, positive mind cognitive therapy, positive mind training, and positive mind meditation were performed on stroke patients. 3. Type of literature: randomized controlled trials, experimental-like studies, qualitative studies, etc. 4. Outcome indicators: anxiety, depression, and quality of life.

Exclusion criteria: 1. type of literature: case reports, reviews, conference abstracts, etc. 2. Literature for which full text was not available. 3. Duplicate publications. 4. Non-English and Chinese literature.

Literature screening and data extraction. Two researchers read the titles and abstracts of the included literature. After the screening, those that met the criteria were downloaded and read in full for screening again, and in case of disagreement, a third researcher joined for joint discussion and confirmation.

Results

Literature screening process

A total of 964 papers were searched, of which 99 were from PubMed, 221 from Web of Science, 199 from Cochrane Library, 253 from Embase, 36 from China Biomedical Literature Database, 61 from China National Knowledge Infrastructure, 64 from Wanfang, and 31 from Vipers; 352 duplicates were excluded. The titles and abstracts were browsed, and the full text of the literature was read to exclude papers that did not match the study object, type of literature and topic, and those that could not be obtained in full text. 19 papers were finally included. The literature screening process is shown in Figure 1.

Basic characteristics of the included literature

Nineteen papers were published between 2015 and 2022, including 9 in English and 10 in Chinese, conducted in the United States (n=1), United Kingdom (n=5), China (n=11), Australia (n=1), and Singapore (n=1). The types of studies included randomized controlled trials (n=12), qualitative studies (n=2), experimental-like studies (n=3), and mixed studies (n=2) with sample sizes ranging from 9 to 134 cases and study durations ranging from 2 weeks to 6 months, as shown in Table 1.

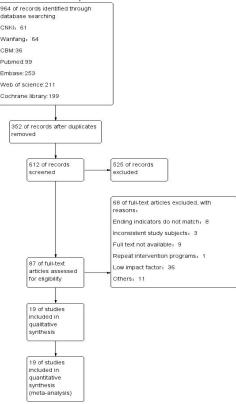


Figure 1 Flow diagram of study

Table1 Basic features of the included literature

Author (year)	Country	Research	Research type		Intervention method E/C	Intervention	Closing
		Subjects		(cases) E/C		duration	indicators
Demers 2022 [9] Wrapson 2021 [10]	US UK	Stroke survivor Stroke survivor		14 17	Online positive thinking intervention Positive thinking training	3W 6W	12 12
Thayabaranathan 2021 [11]	Australia	Stroke survivor		9	Virtual positive thinking skills	8W	1)
Baylan 2020 [12]	UK	Stroke patients	RCT	72 (23/24/25)	Positive Music Listening Group, Musi Listening Group, Audiobooks	c 6M	12
Wang XY 2020 [13]	China	Cerebral hemorrhage patients	RCT	134 (67/67)	Receiving positive Receive cognitive therapy education of stress management	8W 1	23
Yan XY 2020 [14]	China	Stroke patients	RCT	68 (34/34)	Positive thinking Stroke routin training based on care and routine stroke care standardized and standard rehabilitation training stroke routing stroke care standardized and standard rehabilitation training stroke routing stroke rou		123
Zeng J 2020 [15]	China	Cerebral hemorrhage patients	RCT	90 (45/45)	Positive cognitive Giving routin therapy was given on nursing the basis of the interventions control group	e 6W	3
Wang X 2019 [16]	UK	Stroke survivor	Hybrid study	51	Positive thinking and relaxation techniques	n 4W	1)
Dong LH 2019 [17]	China	Cerebral hemorrhage patients	RCT	70 (35/35)	Positive and soothing Implementing music training on the routine care basis of regular care	2W	1)
Lawrence 2018 [18]	UK	Stroke patients	Class experimental research	30	Positive stress reduction therapy	8W	12
Zang LJ 2018 [19]	China	Stroke patients	RCT	60 (30/30)	Received positive Routine cognitive therapy on swallowing top of the control function group rehabilitation training	8W	12
Wang Q 2018 [20]	China	Cerebral hemorrhage patients	RCT	66 (33/33)	e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e		3
Pan S 2018 [21]	China	Stroke patients	RCT	62 (31/31)	Positive thinking Sertraline intervention was treatment for given on top of the depression control group	8W r	2
Doshi 2017 [22]	Singapore	Stroke survivor	Class experimental research	11	Practice of positive thinking	4W	23
Baylan 2017 [23]	UK	Stroke patients	Class experimental research	_	The first group of music listening. The second group: positive musi listening. The third group: audiobook listening	8W c	12
Huang XS 2017 [24]	China	Stroke patients	RCT	80 (40/40)	Adding positive stress Provide routin reduction training to conventional care education and psychological care		1)2)
Li HY 2016 [25]	China	Stroke patients	RCT	60 (30/30)	Adding positive Giving regular thinking training to rehabilitation conventional treatment rehabilitation therapy	r 8W	2
Fan YX 2016 [26]	China	Cerebral infarction patients	RCT	65 (32/33)	Cognitive-behavioral Rehabilitation training based on with positive thinking was conventional given on the basis of techniques the control group	6W	3
Zhang YX 2015 [27]	China	Stroke patients	RCT	89 (56/33)	Behavioral training Giving routin based on positive treatment and thinking health education		23

 $[\]overline{ \textcircled{1}, Anxiety; \textcircled{2}, Depression; \textcircled{3}, Quality of life. RCT, randomized controlled trial. }$

Evaluation of the effectiveness of positive thinking-based interventions in stroke patients

Positive thinking intervention can reduce anxiety and depression in stroke patients. In the included studies, positive thinking-based interventions were found to be effective in stroke patients across regions, patients, and study types. Six studies [9-11, 17, 20, 23] showed that the use of online online positive thinking and virtual positive thinking skills interventions and offline positive thinking training, positive thinking cognitive therapy, and positive thinking soothing music training had a good effect on the anxiety and depression produced by stroke patients with different disease stages, which is similar to the findings of Li Lijun et al. [28]. In recent years, more and more attention has been paid to the humanistic care needs of patients, and the included studies have shown that positive thinking intervention can have an excellent positive effect on patients' body and mind, provide them with care and psychological counseling, improve the sleep quality of stroke patients, and effectively relieve the patients' heart tension and anxiety caused by the quality of sleep, thus reducing the internal pain and anxiety of stroke patients due to the disease and reducing Their depression.

Positive thinking intervention can improve the quality of life of stroke patients. Stroke patients often suffer physically and mentally during the treatment process due to their secondary physical problems, such as chronic pain, treatment burden and treatment costs, which seriously affect their quality of life. The results of this study showed that the intervention of positive thinking could improve the quality of life of stroke patients. Yan et al. [14, 23] used positive thinking training, positive thinking cognition and positive thinking music therapy to intervene in young and middle-aged stroke patients. The results showed that the intervention of positive thinking alleviated the post-traumatic psychological burden of the patients, faced the disease with an objective attitude, made the patients' spiritual and psychological motivation positive, and improved the quality of life and the patient's social functioning ability was enhanced. In addition, in terms of social quality of life, the seven studies included in this paper had a better application on patients' quality of life and reintegration into society [13-15, 20, 22, 26, 27], and the combination of positive thinking interventions with professionals can effectively reduce the cost of medical services and benefit more stroke patients.

Discussion

The effective application of positive thinking intervention in stroke patients

There are more types of interventions based on positive thinking and more options for patient-specific interventions [6]. Of the 19 included papers, medical professionals were more skilled in applying positive thinking to stroke patients. Patients had higher hospital outcomes and compliance, indicating that applying positive thinking-based interventions in stroke patients is practical. Lawrence explored the positive thinking-based stress reduction to improve mood in stroke patients was feasible [18]. 30 stroke survivors were recruited in the United States for an 8-week group-based self-management program. The study results showed that the sessions, adaptations, and their perceptions of related losses effectively regulate patients' moods in stroke patients. A study by Thayabaranathan showed that sessions using virtual positive thinking skills could also address sleep disturbances, improve understanding of oneself and thus enhance the quality of life in stroke patients [11]. At the same time, combining multiple positive thinking-based interventions can effectively help patients restore their limbic motor functions, reduce self-perception burden, and increase social functioning [14, 15]. In addition, the age of the patient should be taken into account in the intervention process, as the age of onset of stroke patients has become increasingly young, and different interventions are received differently by stroke patients.

Limited research on the application of positive thinking intervention in stroke patients

The clinical application of holistic interventions based on positive thinking in stroke patients is at a preliminary stage. In treating stroke patients, interventions based on positive thinking have a good benefit on the treatment of the patient's disease. However, the number of interventions is small and well-designed large, randomized controlled trials are still needed. As a non-pharmacological intervention, healthcare professionals should pay attention to the control of interventions and the length of interventions when intervening in stroke patients. For the application of positive thinking, 50 reviews searched by Cochrane showed [29] that there is a lack of conclusive evidence for the application of positive thinking in different diseases, such as fibromyalgia and aggression in people with intellectual disabilities, and therefore focus on improving the output as well as patient compliance and improving patient self-control of positive thinking training. According to the severity of the onset, less attention has been paid to the population of chronic stroke patients at home and abroad. Only one paper was included on chronic stroke patients [30]. Still, stroke patients are characterized by a high recurrence rate, so further research is needed for the future development of chronic stroke patients. The study results showed that all outcome indicators were beneficial to the recovery of stroke patients, so it is essential to explore the combination of positive thinking interventions and course learning, as well as the application of artificial intelligence to enhance the selection of appropriate positive thinking interventions after

Prospects for the development of positive thinking intervention in stroke patients

With the progressive development of the times, to reduce the self-perceived burden of patients' diseases, the psychological construction of patients has been paid more and more attention to. Positive thinking interventions will gradually become an integral part of clinical work, precise and refined. The implementation of a one-to-one model for patients is the future development direction of positive thinking intervention means, "Health China 2030 Outline" pointed out that in the future, for the health of individuals Promote the formation of a service model that combines patient movement and medical care to promote the overall physical and mental health of patients [32, 33]. In addition, further improvement of patients' personal health indicators, more comprehensive observation, combined with artificial intelligence, the Internet and other ways to achieve hospital-community-home continuity of care, can improve the motor function of post-stroke patients and improve the quality of life of patients.

Conclusion

This study integrates and analyzes the literature related to the application of positive thinking interventions in stroke patients using the framework of a scoping review. Positive thinking-based interventions can improve negative emotions and quality of life aspects in stroke patients, and patients respond well to acceptance and compliance, but the sample size of related studies is small and there is a lack of targeted intervention studies for patients. In future studies, healthcare providers need to conduct trials with larger sample sizes to provide more comfortable and effective medical rehabilitation for patients.

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