

Health-related factors for work participation in persons with spinal cord injury in Finland

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INTRODUCTION

The aim of this study was to explore work participation and health-related factors affecting it in employed and not at work groups among the Finnish Spinal Cord injury (FinSCI) study population (n=884).

METHODS

A cross-sectional explorative observational study in the FinSCI community survey applying Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS®) forms on Social Health and Global Health. Analyses of socio-demographic and injury-related data were performed.

RESULTS

The level of employment among the included respondents (n=452) of the study population was 26.5%. Physical, Mental, Social and General Health were better in the employed group compared to work-aged not at work. Logistic regression showed that work participation was related to all health domains, but Physical Health and Ability to Participate in Social Roles and Activities in Social Health were the strongest indicators assessing the likelihood of being at work. Paraplegia and young age were associated with increased likelihood of work participation.

CONCLUSION

The first national survey among people with SCI in Finland shows low level of employment. The results suggest that pain, physical function, and the ability to participate in social roles should be monitored by health and vocational professionals when assessing a person's likelihood of being in work.