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A qualitative study of Stroke survivors' experience of sensory changes

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Background: Previous literature examined tactile and proprioceptive changes after stroke; however, the lived experience of changes in all sensory systems is still a gap in the literature.

Purpose: To gain understanding of stroke survivors' experience of sensory changes and how sensory changes impact participation in daily life activities. **Method.** This study utilized a qualitative description method. Researchers used semi-structured interviews with probing questions. Inductive content analysis approach was used to analyze the data. Researchers recruited thirteen stroke survivors ≤ 75 years old who participated in a community program.

Findings: Emerging themes included Daily Life Impact of Sensory Function Changes and Experience and Timing of Sensory Changes. Participants experienced changes in various sensory systems including touch and proprioception, visual, auditory and taste. Survivors also reported sensitivity to environmental stimuli. Sensory changes affect survivors' participation in daily life. **Implications.** Results from this study inform health care providers about stroke survivors' sensory needs to help them design interventions that match their needs.

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