

COVID-19 Impact on adults with long-term neurological condition (LTNC): a scoping review of third-sector reports

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Background and Objective

- One in three individuals worldwide live with LTNC.
- However, the unique insights of charities for people with LTNC during the COVID-19 pandemic have not been previously synthesised.
- This grey literature scoping review aims to collate the unmet care and support needs of adults with LTNC during the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on the perspectives of charities for people with LTNC.

Methods

- Adopted Arksey and O'Malley framework (1)
- Searches were done using Godin 2015 stages (2)
- Data extracted included:
 - Study demographics, perspectives reported, unmet needs extracted verbatim, and interventions delivered
 - Coding: ICD-11 codes for nervous system disorders; text-coded developing themes which were then mapped to the WHO ICF framework (3)

Results

- Significant disruptions in healthcare, unequal access to technology, and social isolation were key themes.
- Figures 1 and 2 illustrate the conditions reported by ICD-11 and the interventions, respectively.

243 records from 146 charities + 14 records from other 13 sources

Assessed for eligibility: 158 reports

Included: n=97 reported from 41 charities

Fig 1. Conditions by ICD-11

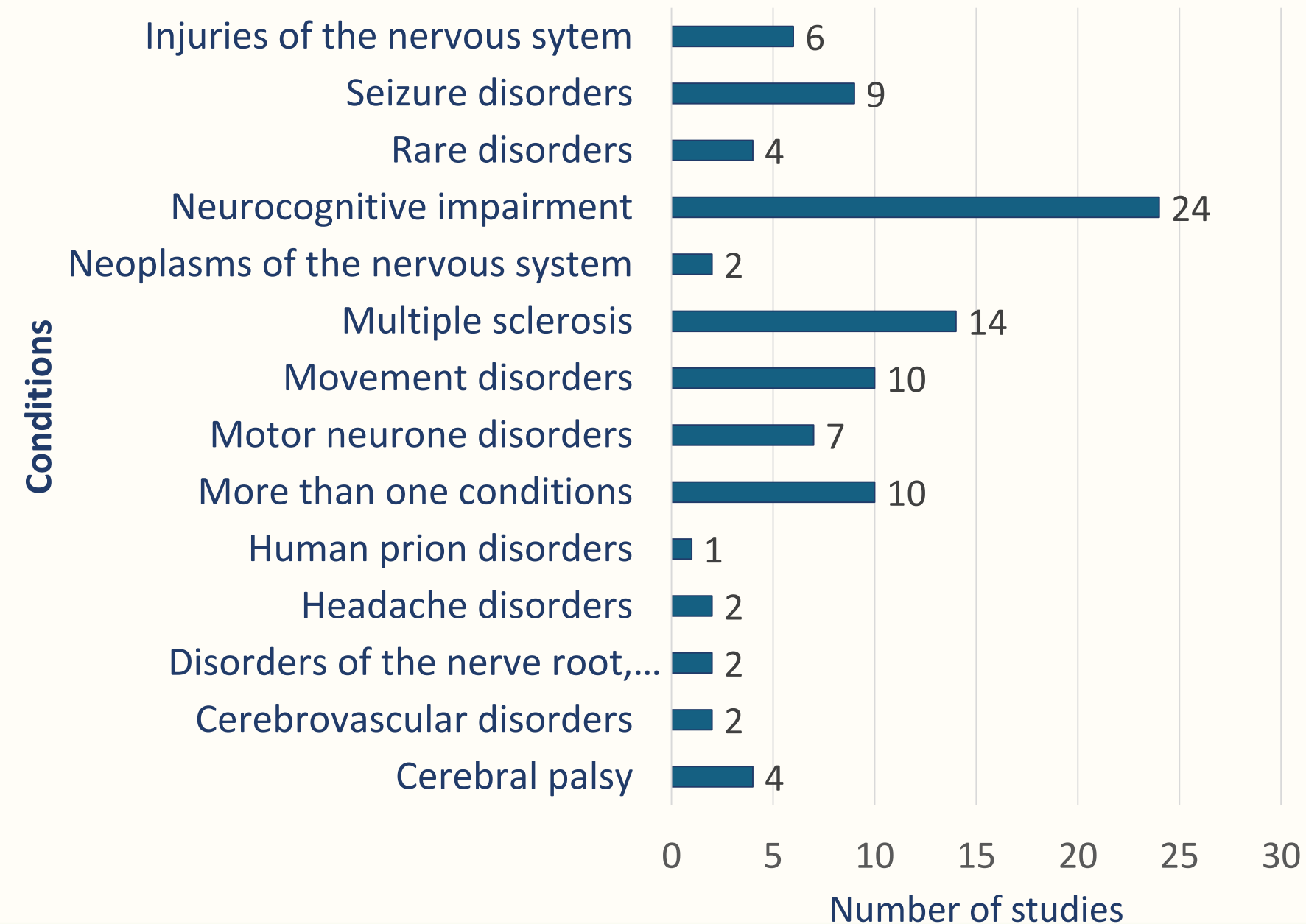
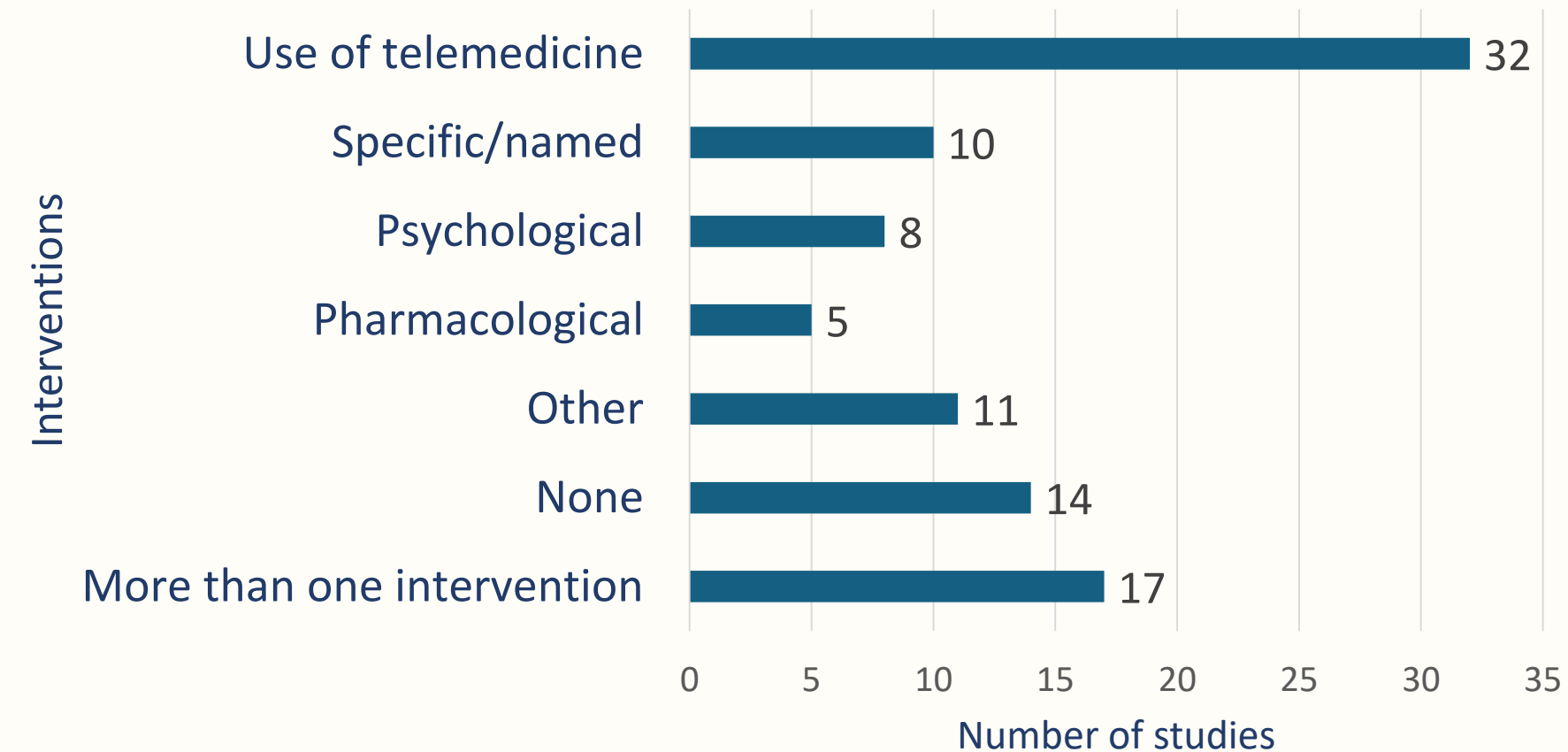


Fig 2. Interventions reported



Examples of reported needs

"The detrimental consequences of social isolation during COVID is being harmful, just like smoking 15 cigarettes a day."

Complications were more frequent in people with Parkinson's (PD) duration. People with PD and COVID-19 experienced new or worsening motor (63%) and nonmotor (75%) symptoms.

"Many people with neurological conditions have little or no access to physiotherapy. We found during COVID-19 that providing online physiotherapy programmes has far greater reach and impact than we anticipated"

Conclusion

- There was a widespread report of unmet needs in mental health, physical functioning, social interactions, and community engagement.
- Continuity of care in the face of crises, addressing the digital divide, and enhancing emergency preparedness strategies are essential for mitigating future challenges.
- Equity, living alone and the impact of racial disparity in healthcare access during the COVID-19 pandemic need further in-depth study

References

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