The Complexity of Identity Transformation following Traumatic brain Injury

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Summary of the research

The complex nature of traumatic brain injury is known to have significant impact on the identity of individuals. Cognitive, physical, emotional, and behavioural impairments are all commonly experienced by individuals post-TBI, impacting on their lives and resulting in identity change. This study explored the impact TBI had on the identity transformation of a woman four years post-injury. A semi-structured interview was conducted and the transcript was analysed using a grounded theory methodology. Analysis revealed the complexity of identity transformation post-TBI. The findings suggest that the motive of self-efficacy is significant in assisting individuals to move forward with their post-TBI identity transformation. The findings also revealed that transformation is often beyond the control of the individual as external factors and limitations resulting from impairment may hamper the progression of identity transformation.