That Percentage Is Too High: Approximately 10% of ACS Patients Should Undergo Invasive Treatment: How Can They Be Reliably Selected

Kosmas I. Paraskevas, MD / Jean-Baptiste Ricco, MD
London, UK  
Poitiers, France

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Conclusion: In 1998, at least 11.75 million persons experienced stroke in the US, in whom approximately 770,000 were symptomatic and 10.98 million were first-ever silent MRI infarcts or hemorrhages.
2.1.1. Burden of stroke. In a European population of 715 million, about 1.4 million strokes occur each year. Stroke causes 1.1 million deaths annually in Europe, making it the second commonest cause of death. In Europe, annual stroke costs exceed 38 billion Euros.

Overall, about 10-15% of all strokes follow thromboembolism from a previously asymptomatic ICA stenosis >50%.

“The premature cessation of SPACE-2 suggests that it may be hard to convince patients not to take any action (CEA/CAS) to prevent a possible stroke from their carotid stenosis and just continue with BMT”.

- 900 asymptomatic carotid arteries in 794 patients with moderate (50%-70%) ACS.
- Mean US follow-up: 3.6 years (range: 0.3 – 7 years).
- Plaque progression occurred in 262 carotid arteries and 36 of these (13.7%) developed symptoms.

- 1121 patients with asymptomatic carotid stenosis of 50%-99% on BMT.
- Mean follow-up: 4 years.
- Plaque progression occurred in 222 patients (19.8%), no change in 856 (76.4%) and regression in 43 patients (3.8%).
- Of the total of 130 ipsilateral cerebral or retinal ischemic events, 88 (67.7%) occurred in patients whose stenosis was unchanged, 33 (25.4%) in those with progression without occlusion, 9 (6.9%) in those that developed occlusion and 0 in those with regression.
There is an imperative need to identify appropriate stroke risk stratification models and vascular risk factors able identify specific subgroups of asymptomatic patients in order to guide the selection of ACS patients more likely to benefit from prophylactic carotid endarterectomy.

Conclusions

BMT is not adequate for all ACS patients.

Strokes rates have not decreased despite vast improvements in BMT.

10-15% of strokes occur as a result of thromboembolism from a previously asymptomatic ICA stenosis.

Silent strokes

Management of Atherosclerotic Carotid and Vertebral Artery Disease: 2017 Clinical Practice Guidelines of the European Society for Vascular Surgery (ESVS)

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IS MT ADEQUATE FOR STROKE PREVENTION IN ALL ACS PATIENTS?

NOT ALL PATIENTS WITH ACS CARRY THE SAME RISK OF STROKE

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Thank you for your attention