



LECTURE

Stroke in women

Carla Ferreira¹

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Abstract

During most of their lifespan, men have a higher incidence of stroke than women. However, over the age of 85 years more women suffer strokes, leading to an excess of disability and mortality in older women. This disproportionate mortality rate in women is mostly because of the older age of women at stroke occurrence and the fact that women live longer than men. However, after controlling for baseline differences between men and women, women continue to have poorer functional outcomes after stroke. Women are more likely to present at hospitals with stroke chameleons ("non-traditional" stroke symptoms) and it has been noted

that women suffer more cardioembolic strokes than men. Several studies suggest that women may be treated less aggressively for primary and secondary stroke prevention and acute stroke than men (women have longer waiting times once they arrive at the emergency room and receive less intensive treatment and therapeutic workup once they are admitted). Women also have a higher rate of depression and lower quality of life than men and are more likely to require assistance after a stroke, even when controlling for factors such as age and premorbid function.

¹Neurology Department, Hospital de Braga, Portugal

Email address: carla.m.c.ferreira@gmail.com

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