Lacunar stroke: what management particularities?

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Abstract

Cerebral small vessel disease (CSVD) is the result of cumulative damage to the cerebral microcirculation, increased blood brain barrier permeability and chronic oligemia. Lacunar stroke (LS), a type of CSVD, is responsible for about 25% of ischaemic strokes, but it is largely understudied. Far from a benign clinical entity, its consequences are numerous, including increased morbimortality and stroke recurrence, mild cognitive impairment and dementia, gait disturbances and mood disorders. It has several aetiologies, and hypertension is the most frequent culprit. Management includes many of the procedures used in other stroke subtypes, but specific treatment and monitoring strategies are urgently needed for patients with CSVD and LS. Current recommendations and future directions are discussed.