

5. CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE AS A RISK FACTOR FOR STROKE

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Introduction: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a risk factor for cardiovascular disease and cerebrovascular prior to the occurrence of stroke.

Aim: To examine the associations between COPD and subtypes of stroke in the general population and to explore the role of cardiovascular risk factors and exacerbations on these associations.

Methods: The study was retrospective and included 1284 patients with stroke (ischemic and hemorrhagic) treated at the Clinic of Neurology, Skopje, for a period of 3 years. The study analyzed were the etiology of occurrence of IS, stroke type, the risk factors included in the analyzed patients, including COPD, age of the patient.

Results: COPD was diagnosed in 125 patients with stroke, 87 patients of them were ischemic and 38 hemorrhagic. Adjusted for age, age squared, and sex, COPD was significantly associated with all stroke (hazard ratio [HR], 1.20; 95% confidence interval, 1.0-1.5), ischemic stroke (HR, 1.3), and hemorrhagic stroke (HR, 1.70). Adjusting for cardiovascular risk factors gave similar effect sizes.

Conclusion: Our study demonstrated a higher risk of both ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke in subjects with COPD.

KEYWORDS: cerebral infarction; intracerebral hemorrhage; chronic airflow obstruction; epidemiology;