

Abstract Submission

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Summary

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Title

STROKE CARE PROCESS IN SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES: TURKEY

Abstract

Introduction: Although prevention and treatment strategies have greatly improved, stroke still appears to be a major health problem throughout Europe due to the increase in elderly population. Data shows that there are considerable differences among European countries regarding epidemiological characteristics as well as stroke care process. Purpose: To document and discuss stroke care process in Turkey. Method: Data, regarding stroke epidemiology and care in Turkey was retrieved from Pubmed and National Data Sources. Results: Stroke is a major health problem in Turkey (80 million population). It is responsible for nearly 10% of the deaths in the country, being the fourth leading cause of death after cardiac diseases, neoplasms and respiratory system diseases in both 2015 and 2016. It was reported to be the sixth leading cause of Disability-Adjusted Life Years in 2013, accounting for nearly 5% of the total disease burden. The prevalence of stroke has been reported to be 2% (1.8% in males and 2.2% in females). The type of stroke is ischemic in 84%. Risk factors for cerebrovascular diseases include hypertension, hyperlipidemia, cardiac diseases, diabetes mellitus and smoking. Total number of comprehensive stroke centers are nearly 40, which are located mainly in university hospitals and private sector hospitals, having a distribution in only 20 big cities. These stroke centers generally give service for acute stroke patients (e.g. thrombolysis, endovascular therapy, decompressive surgery) and stroke survivors need to be transferred to rehabilitation departments or centers for post-acute comprehensive rehabilitation. 98% of the population is covered by public health insurance, which is applicable for stroke care also. Conclusions: Although considerable achievements have been made regarding prevention, diagnosis and management of persons with stroke, additional efforts are required to better organise and generalise stroke care services throughout the country.

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