

Incidence, case-fatality rate, and prognosis of ischaemic stroke subtypes in a predominantly Hispanic-Mestizo population in Iquique, Chile (PISCIS project): a community-based incidence study

Lavados, Pablo M.

Sacks, Claudio

Prina, Liliana

Escobar, Arturo

Tossi, Claudia

Araya, Fernando

Feuerhake, Walter

Gálvez, Marcelo

Salinas, Rodrigo

Álvarez, Gonzalo

Background: Incidence of ischaemic stroke subtypes, classified by cause, seems to vary between communities. We aimed to prospectively ascertain the incidence of first-ever ischaemic stroke in a predominantly Hispanic-Mestizo population in the northern desertic region of Chile. **Methods:** Between July, 2000, and June, 2002, all patients with possible stroke or transient ischaemic attacks were identified from multiple overlapping sources and were rapidly assessed by two field neurologists. All identified patients were diagnosed by at least two stroke neurologists according to Trial of Org 10172 in Acute Stroke Treatment (TOAST) definitions and were followed up at 6 months. Annual incidence rates were age adjusted to WHO, European, and US populations by the direct method to allow comparisons. **Findings:** A total of 239 ischaemic strokes were identified, of which 185 (77%) were first-ever cases. 151 (82%) patients were hospitalised, of whom only 70 (38%) were assessed within 6 h of symptom ons