

QUEST - Quality Evaluation of Stroke Care and Treatment in China study

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Facts

- Stroke is the second leading cause of mortality and a common cause of disability among adults worldwide.
- In 2010, stroke was the 3rd most common cause of death in Chinese urban areas, accounting for 20% of all deaths; while, in rural areas, stroke was the leading cause of death, causing 23% of all deaths.

Partners:

The George Institute, University of Sydney

Peking University First Hospital, China

The Shanghai Institute for Hypertension, Ruijin Hospital, China

Supporters:

Macquarie Bank Foundation

The George Foundation

Astra Zeneca Pharmaceutical, China



Background:

- At the outset of the study in 2006, China did not have a universal health insurance system in place.
- In China, where 60% of healthcare expenditure is financed from out-of-pocket payments, illness is a major cause of economic hardship and poverty.
- Stroke is a major health burden in China, but there is limited data on its economic effects on households.

Aims:

- The aim of this research is to determine the current management and the influence of socio-economic status circumstances on stroke outcomes in China.

Methods:

- The study involved over 6500 stroke patients in 37 cities across mainland China.
- At each hospital, stroke registers were established and key neurology investigators were trained in the protocol and procedures.
- Collected data includes demographic, clinical, management and in-hospital outcomes on all registered cases.
- The study includes an assessment at: time of incident; hospital discharge; and, at three and 12 months, post incident. Details on physical function (activities of daily living), mood, living arrangements, adherence to stroke prevention therapy, and use of health services.

Impact:

- ChinaQuest highlighted the enormous economic burden to families of stroke patients and the importance of health insurance in protecting families against catastrophic expenses. This supported the acceleration of building a comprehensive healthcare system in both urban and rural China.
- ChinaQUEST characterised the geographical variation in the type of stroke across China, which was partially explained by differences in risk factors.
- ChinaQUEST showed that there is variable uptake of evidence-based therapies in both the acute phase and for secondary prevention of stroke in China.
- Outcomes of this project have been extensively quoted by major journals and international guidelines.

Contact

To find out more about Quality Evaluation of Stroke Care & Treatment (China QUEST) China study and its principal investigators (Prof. Craig Anderson and Dr. Emma Heeley, or Prof. Yangfeng Wu) or The George Institute please contact:

Xiaoyun Li: +86 10 8280 0577 or email xli@georgeinstitute.org.cn

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