



6-2023

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### Recommended Citation

Malik, Adnan and Agia, Rahul (2023) "Lack of Stroke Care Centers in Sindh," *Pakistan Journal of Neurological Sciences (PJNS)*: Vol. 18: Iss. 2, Article 7.

Available at: <https://ecommons.aku.edu/pjns/vol18/iss2/7>



# LACK OF STROKE CARE CENTERS IN SINDH

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**Date of submission:** May 23, 2023 Accepted without revisions after peer review **Date of acceptance:** June 25, 2023

## Respected Editor,

The lack of stroke care centers is one of the factors that contribute to the high mortality and morbidity of stroke in Sindh. Specialized facilities “Stroke Care Centers” offer complete and coordinated stroke patient care, including emergency treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention. Pakistan has a dearth of stroke care facilities, particularly in Sindh province. To identify the true incidence of stroke in Pakistan, there are no extensive epidemiological research available<sup>1</sup>. Because there are few stroke units, one neurologist per million people, and confined availability of alteplase (recombinant tissue plasminogen activator), acute stroke care is difficult to find in Pakistan.<sup>1</sup>

The poor infrastructure and transportation system hinder the timely access to stroke care centers especially in rural areas, and tertiary care centers in Sindh fail to identify and transfer stroke patients to stroke care centers. Failure to do immediate CT scan after noticing signs probably due to lack of proper diagnostic equipment is a big setback. Meanwhile laymen fail to reach to hospitals quickly due to lack of awareness about sign and symptoms of stroke. Too much time lapse leads to huge deterioration in the health of the patient. Nonetheless, this is a huge neglect of various stakeholders, including the government, health authorities, professional societies, and non-governmental organizations, to collaborate and work together in order to create a comprehensive stroke system of care in Pakistan.<sup>2</sup>

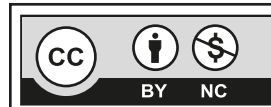
In conclusion, government should work on building stroke care centers in the province and should equip tertiary health care for immediate care of the patients. There should be more seminars about awareness of stroke among general population. All these measures might ensure reduction in the mortality of stroke patients.

## REFERENCES

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Conflict of interest: Author declares no conflict of interest.

Funding disclosure: Nil



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