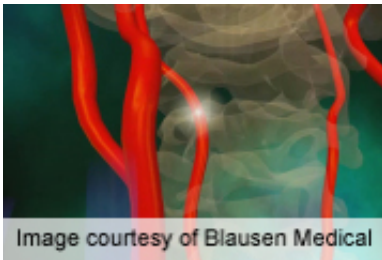


# Mild cognitive decline in nearly half lacunar stroke patients

August 27 2012

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Mild cognitive impairment is present in nearly half of patients with lacunar stroke, according to a study published online Aug. 18 in the *Annals of Neurology*.

(HealthDay)—Mild cognitive impairment (MCI) is present in nearly half of patients with lacunar stroke, according to a study published online Aug. 18 in the *Annals of Neurology*.

Claudia Jacova, Ph.D., of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, and associates conducted a study to characterize, and estimate the prevalence of, neuropsychological impairment in 1,636 English-speaking lacunar stroke patients. Using published norms, raw scores were converted to z scores. Participants underwent neuropsychological testing at baseline and those with impairment (z score of  $\leq 1.5$ ) in memory and/or non-memory domains were classified as having MCI.

The researchers found that the average z scores at baseline testing were below zero. The largest deficits were seen in measures of episodic memory (range of means,  $-0.65$  to  $-0.92$ ), [verbal fluency](#) (mean,  $-0.89$ ), and motor dexterity (mean,  $-2.5$ ). Of the participants, 47 percent were classified as having MCI, which included 36 percent amnesic, 37 percent amnesic multidomain, and 28 percent non-amnesic. Forty-one percent of those with Rankin score of 0 to 1 and Barthel score of 100 percent had MCI.

"In this large, well-characterized cohort of lacunar stroke patients, MCI was present in nearly half, including many with minimal or no physical disabilities," the authors write. "[Cognitive dysfunction](#) in lacunar [stroke patients](#) may commonly be overlooked in clinical practice but may be as important as motor and sensory sequelae."

Study medication was donated by Sanofi/BMS USA.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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Citation: Mild cognitive decline in nearly half lacunar stroke patients (2012, August 27) retrieved 1 May 2024 from  
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