

# COPD tied to increased risk of ischemic, hemorrhagic stroke

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(HealthDay)—Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is associated with increased risk of all stroke, ischemic stroke, and hemorrhagic stroke, although the risks are attenuated after adjustment for smoking, according to a study published online Sept. 28 in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*.

Marileen L.P. Portegies, M.D., from the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam, Netherlands, and colleagues examined the correlation between COPD and subtypes of stroke in the general population. A total of 13,115 participants within the prospective population-based Rotterdam Study were followed for occurrence of stroke.

The researchers found that COPD was significantly associated with all stroke (hazard ratio [HR], 1.20; 95 percent confidence interval [CI],

1.00 to 1.43), ischemic stroke (HR, 1.27; 95 percent CI, 1.02 to 1.59), and hemorrhagic stroke (HR, 1.70; 95 percent CI, 1.01 to 2.84), after adjustment for age, age<sup>2</sup>, and sex. Similar effect sizes were seen after adjustment for [cardiovascular risk factors](#). Additional adjustment for smoking attenuated the effect sizes for all stroke (HR, 1.09; 95 percent CI, 0.91 to 1.31), ischemic stroke (HR, 1.13; 95 percent CI, 0.91 to 1.42), and hemorrhagic stroke (HR, 1.53; 95 percent CI, 0.91 to 2.59).

"Our cohort study demonstrated a higher risk of both ischemic and [hemorrhagic stroke](#) in subjects with COPD, and revealed the importance of smoking as a shared risk factor," the authors write.

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