

Some stroke survivors may have underlying cancer

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Some stroke survivors may have underlying cancer, according to an observational study to be presented at the ESMO 2017 Congress in Madrid.

"Post-mortem studies have suggested that [cancer](#) can develop after a stroke, but the magnitude of this association has not been described," said lead author Dr Jacobo Rogado, medical oncology fellow, Hospital de La Princesa, Madrid, Spain. "We conducted a study that would allow us to establish whether this association actually exists and which factors may predict risk."

The researchers reviewed the medical records of all 914 patients admitted from the [emergency room](#) to the stroke unit of Hospital de La Princesa between January 2012 and December 2014. A total of 381 patients met the inclusion criteria and were followed for 18 months from the [diagnosis](#) of stroke. Demographic and [clinical data](#) were collected and compared between those who did, and did not, develop cancer. Variables that were significantly associated with cancer in univariate [analysis](#) were then subjected to multivariate analysis.

During the 18-month follow-up, 29 (7.6%) of [stroke survivors](#) were diagnosed with cancer, most frequently in the colon, lung and prostate. This was higher than the expected incidence of 17 patients (4.5%), based on statistics for the general population.

The average time from stroke onset to cancer diagnosis was six months.

Nearly 45% of cancer diagnoses occurred within the first six months after a stroke diagnosis. Almost two-thirds (62%) of cancer patients presented with metastatic or locally advanced disease.

Multivariate analysis revealed that older age (>76 years), previous diagnosis of cancer, high levels of fibrinogen (>450 mg/dl) and low levels of haemoglobin (

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