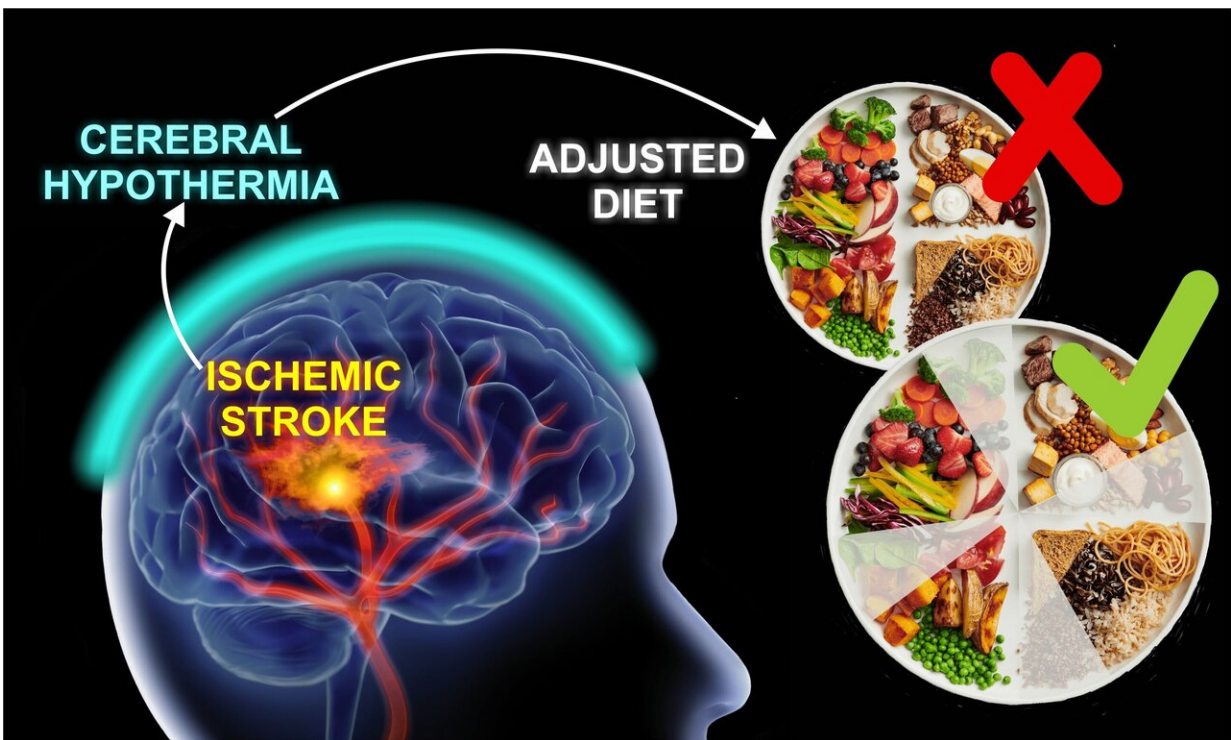


# Researchers identify an error in the therapy of ischemic stroke after-effects

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Credit: Natalia Deryugina

If a patient is treated for ischemic stroke after-effects using the cerebral hypothermia method, their diet is adjusted, and they are expected to consume 20-25 Kcal per 1 kilogram of body weight. RUDN researchers demonstrated that this value should be reduced by 15-20% to decrease the mortality and disability rate among such patients by half. The article

was published in *Clinical Nutrition* journal.

An ischemic stroke can lead to death, disability, [cerebral edema](#), alteration of consciousness, and other complications that considerably affect the quality of the [patients'](#) lives. The [method](#) of selective cerebral [hypothermia](#) is used to treat cerebral edema and reduce intracranial pressure. According to RUDN doctors, some treatment standards included in this method are incorrect.

In the course of selective cerebral hypothermia, the brain cortex is cooled off causing the body's activity to slow down and relieving the edema. This effect is achieved using a special helmet with 0-8°C liquid circulating inside it. The method also slows down the metabolism, and the patients need to make adjustments to their diets for the duration of therapy. Previously, the patients were expected to get 20-25 Kcal per 1 kilogram of body weight. For an average weight person this means about 1,600 Kcal a day—two times less than it is required by healthy people. RUDN researchers demonstrated that these values were incorrect. In fact, the amount of calories should be reduced by 15-20%.

The researchers divided 27 [ischemic stroke patients](#) from 53 to 80 years old into two groups. The first one was treated using the selective cerebral hypothermia method, and the other one without it. All other therapy aspects were the same in both groups. The diet of the patients was developed in view of their energy consumption and daily protein loss. The first group showed positive dynamics 24 hours after the beginning of the treatment, and the second one none at all. After the patients in the first group underwent selective cerebral hypothermia, all their health indicators went back to normal. As a result, the scientists demonstrated that standard dietary recommendations for such patients had little efficiency and recommended reducing [caloric intake](#) by 15-20%.

"The neuroprotective effect of therapeutic hypothermia has already been

acknowledged all over the world. However, we have to continue clinical studies and optimize therapy. We provided new recommendations regarding calorie value reduction in case of hypothermia. Currently, they are only preliminary, but one may expect our method to reduce the mortality and disability rate in patients with [ischemic stroke](#)," said Oleg Shevelev, Professor of the V.A. Frolov Department of General Pathology and Pathological Physiology at RUDN.

**More information:** B.J. Torosyan et al. Influence of selective cerebral hypothermia on resting energy expenditure in patients in acute period of ischemic stroke, *Clinical Nutrition* (2018). [DOI: 10.1016/j.clnu.2018.06.1222](#)

Provided by RUDN University

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